Bush says battle of Iraq one victory in war on terror

Story below, Col. 1

Philip Morris pushing no-smoking campaign?

YOSI KADIRI...
BUMILIB NAMAN KAYO!!!

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—This giant tobacco firm is asking the youth to just say no—and the youth aren't buying the campaign.

PHILIP/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

70 Sino sailors die in sub

BEIJING—A mechanical malfunction aboard a conventionally powered Chinese submarine killed 70 crew members, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Friday.

The report said the accident occurred recently in waters off the northeastern province of Liaoning.

The submarine was on an exercise when the accident occurred, Xinhua said. It did not provide details. The report said the vessel has been towed back to port. *AP*

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph   Saturday, May 3, 2003 ★★★ 62 pages / 7 sections / vol. 18 / no. 144   P15   website: www.inq7.net

Fil-Canadian doc critical

X-ray technician, RITM doc, nurse OK

By Armand N. Nocum

THE FILIPINO doctor in Toronto, Canada, reported two weeks ago to have been stricken with the SARS virus is in critical condition at the Sunnybrook General Hospital in North York, a Filipino-American newspaper has reported.

Quoting Philippine Consul Edgar Badajos, the Filipino Reporter, in its online edition, said the doctor with the initials NY was confined in the hospital's intensive care unit after reportedly contracting the virus from a member of the Bukas Loob sa Diyos spiritual group whom the Filipino-Canadian general practitioner had been treating.

Badajos said at least 32 BLD members are probable SARS cases, based on records of Toronto's Public Health Office. But the quarantine on about 500 members has been lifted this week, Badajos told the Filipino Reporter.

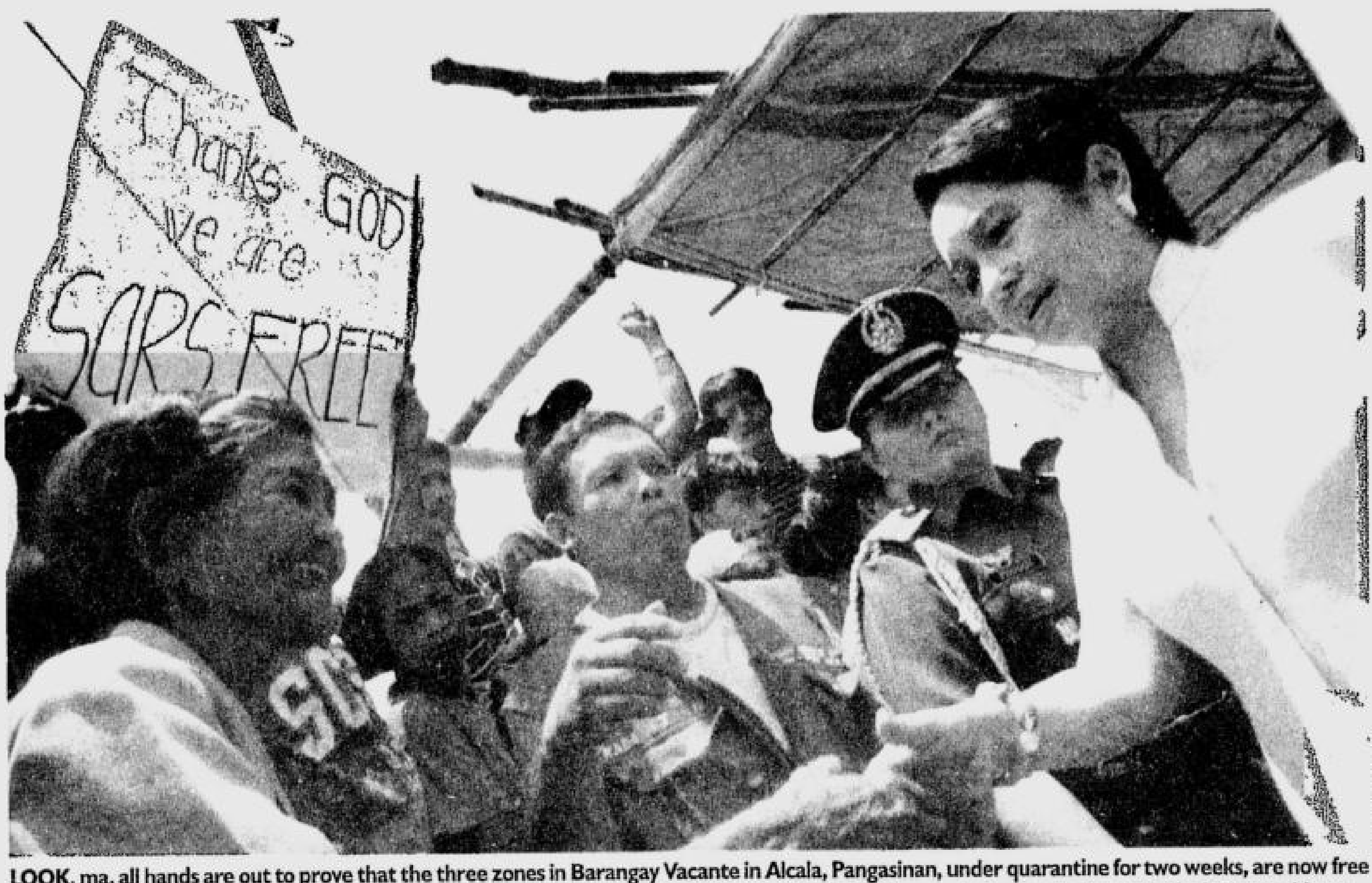
In Manila, health officials said the condition of some suspected SARS patients now under isolation continued to improve.

Doctors at the San Lazaro Hospital took RT, the X-ray technician who was exposed to SARS victim Adela Catalon, off isolation after she had recovered from her sickness.

"There is one less SARS suspect to worry about," hospital chief Dr. Arturo Cabanban told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Dr. Remigio Olveda, director of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, said the female doctor and male nurse in isolation at

FIL-CANADIAN/ A6


Thanks GOD we are SARS FREE

EDWIN BACASMAS

LOOK, ma, all hands are out to prove that the three zones in Barangay Vacante in Alcala, Pangasinan, under quarantine for two weeks, are now free of the dreaded virus. President Macapagal herself says so as she walks through the village without a mask, freely mingling with the happy residents.

19 more die from SARS in China, HK

HONG KONG—The deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome claimed 19 more lives in China and Hong Kong Friday as Vietnam, the first country to bring the disease under control, announced it would quarantine 2,000 students due back from China.

Eleven more people died from SARS in China and eight more in Hong Kong, health officials said, taking the global toll from the virus to 412.

Vietnam's decision to put students returning Friday from China into a quarantine center for 14 days was the "most efficient way of preventing any outbreak," a health ministry spokesperson said in Hanoi.

Officials in Beijing said, however, that only 39 of the 670,000 university students in China's capital had been confirmed to have SARS as of Thursday, and there should be no panic.

But Liang Wannian, deputy director of the Beijing health department, warned there would be no quick resolution to the epidemic in Beijing, which has recorded 91 of China's 181 SARS deaths, even though the situation had stabilized.

"According to my experience as an epidemiologist, I can say the high pattern of the number of cases will continue for some time," Liang said Friday, when 176 new cases were announced. "I think it will take a long period of time for us to eliminate this epidemic."

In Singapore, the secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation said an Apec meeting in June would assess the economic

19 MORE/ A4

Isolation, humiliation over for Vacante

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

LIFE disrupted by atypical pneumonia now goes on for Vacante, a typical rural barangay, obscure as it is poor until it was suddenly thrust into the limelight because it happened to be home to 2 SARS victims.

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ALCALA, Pangasinan—After two weeks of isolation and humiliation, residents of Barangay Vacante yesterday were jubilant after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared their village SARS-free.

"Para akong nabunutan ng tinik (I'm relieved)," said 73-year-old Esperanza Yadao. "Our friends in other barangays embraced us when they learned that the quarantine had been lifted. We are happy that we are free to go to the town and other places."

The President walked into the village without wearing a mask, shaking the hands of well-wishers and mingling freely with residents.

ISOLATION/ A4

Arms raised, GMA turns to prayer in Palace rally

By Dona Pazzibugan

AFTER taking a hands-on approach to the SARS outbreak, the President late yesterday tried a different tack: arms raised, she turned to prayer.

At the "prayer rally" against what organizers called the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome "plague" held on Malacañang grounds, President Macapagal-Arroyo asked for divine help to spare the country from SARS.

"I pray that you spare our people from the SARS plague and other diseases and that you continually cover us with the redeeming blood of Jesus.

"We claim the healing grace of Jesus, for our people, for you said that by his wounds we were healed," she declared, emphasizing the last few words, a Scriptural passage.

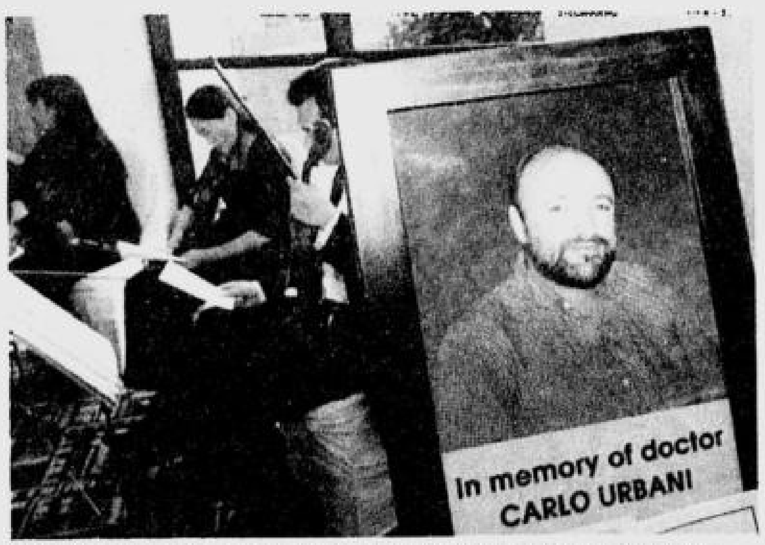
She also asked for "supernatural" help to end the Mindanao conflict and bring about economic prosperity.

"We cast away the spirit of corruption, dishonesty, injustice and other forms of immorality that have plagued us for (so) long," Ms Macapagal went on.

"I declare the Philippines a strong republic that belongs to Jesus Christ and to Jesus Christ

ARMS/ A4

Doc who spotted SARS virus hailed as saint


In memory of doctor CARLO URBANI

TRIBUTES have been heaped on Italian Dr. Carlo Urbani, WHO's top infectious disease specialist in Vietnam, this one at a memorial service held in Hanoi last month. He died of SARS on March 29. AFP

"IT WAS was the cruelest of ironies that he lost his own life to SARS while seeking to safeguard others from the disease," said UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

He was referring to the Italian doctor Carlo Urbani, who was the first to recognize that the outbreak of the virus was something out of the ordinary. And he put his own personal safety on the line to attend to SARS patients in a hospital in Hanoi, Vietnam. He himself succumbed to the disease.

Since his death on March 29 at the age of 46, tributes have flocked in from around the world for Urbani. As president of the Italian section of Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders), he went to Oslo in 1999 to receive the Nobel Peace Prize on its behalf.

Among the most moving tributes for Urbani was that from veteran BBC broadcaster Alistair Cooke in his weekly "Letter from America." "We know him as Dr. Urbani, but it would seem proper and inevitable that future generations will come to know him as Saint Carlo. For if ever a saint was alive and practicing in my time, Dr. Urbani was it," he said.

"I don't know if the Nobel Institute has a rule against making a posthumous award. If so, they'd better break it. The next Nobel Prize for Medicine surely belongs to Dr. Carlo Urbani."

For the tight-knit United Nations community in Vietnam, Carlo Urbani, the Italian doctor

DOC/ A4

Bush: Victory in war that began 9/11

ABOARD THE USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN—"The Battle of Iraq is one victory in a war on terror that began on Sept. 11, 2001, and still goes on," said President George W. Bush on Thursday as he declared the major fighting in Iraq over. But he warned that "dangerous" work still lies ahead in the war on terrorism and that other "outlaw" regimes could be confronted.

Bush hailed the triumph of the United States and its allies in Iraq, from the deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier as it returned from war duty in the Gulf.

But his speech came only hours after seven American soldiers were injured in a grenade attack in Baghdad which gave a stark reminder to the US administration of the potential pitfalls ahead.

"Major combat operations in Iraq have ended. In the Battle of Iraq, the United States and our allies have prevailed," Bush told some 5,000 sailors on the carrier heading back to its home port of San Diego.

Bush did not formally declare the hostilities over, and tempered rejoicing over the ousting of Saddam Hussein by warning that "difficult work" lies ahead in Iraq and also "dangerous work" in Afghanistan where US forces are hunting for the remnants of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

"The transition from dictatorship to democracy will take time, but it is worth every effort. Our coalition will stay until our work is done. Then we will leave—and we will leave behind a free Iraq," he said.

"From Pakistan to the Philippines to the Horn of Africa, we are hunting down al-Qaida

BUSH/ A13

Peace in Mideast could bring peace to Mindanao

By Carlito Pablo and Julie S. Alipala,
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE END of the war in Iraq and efforts to find a final resolution to the Palestinian issue has strategic implications for the Philippines' own national security, "especially looking prospectively to a final settlement of the conflict in Mindanao."

This was the official statement issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday after US President George W. Bush declared an end to major combat operations in Iraq and a commitment to the "road map" for peace in Palestine *(Story on Page A1)*.

"The lesson of Iraq is that only

PEACE/ A13

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/05/03/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
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Dalapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONTPAGE

Latest Mindanao toll: 15 dead

By Grace Cantal-Albasin, Edwin O. Fernandez, Rosa-May V. de Guzman and Jeffrey P. Maningo
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Violence goes on in parts of Mindanao, with no end in sight. Five soldiers, four rebels, and six civilians have died in the latest round of fighting.

Four members of the Muslim Abu Sayyaf kidnap group and two government troops were confirmed killed after the military, backed by bomber planes, attacked the gang on tiny Pilas island, officials said yesterday.

Three other soldiers were wounded and an undetermined number of Abu Sayyaf members injured or killed in the fighting on Thursday, regional military chief Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamco said.

Kyamco said OV-10 planes had attacked Abu Sayyaf positions in Pilas after it was learned that more than 100 Abu fighters and those allied to the group had landed there from Jolo island.

Janjalani flees

Led by Khadaffy Janjalani and Isnilon Hapilon, the group is believed to have fled Jolo to escape a planned US-Philippine joint military operation there in the coming months, Ramos said.

In Jolo, government forces attacked Abu Sayyaf positions in the town of Patikul also on Thursday, leading to an undetermined number of rebel casualties, the island's army chief said.

Col. Alexander Aleo also said his forces were stepping up efforts to recover two female Christian preachers still in the hands of the kidnap gang.

Rebels kill infant

Also yesterday, the military reported that Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels in North Cotabato, Maguindanao and Lanao del Norte killed at least five people, including a 9-month-old infant.

Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said Datu Diwata, a 9-month-old boy, was killed while three other civilians were wounded when MILF fighters, using rocket-propelled grenade launchers, stormed a farming community in Barangay Kambingi in Datu Piang, Maguindanao early morning on Wednesday.

On the same day, in Pikit, North Cotabato, Senga said the rebels ambushed a passenger motorcycle, killing two soldiers and a civilian.

Senior Insp. Glicerio Ragodos, Pikit police chief, identified the slain soldiers as Cpl. Ruben Vacaro and Pfc. Laurel Nambong, both of the 40th Infantry Battalion, and Ali Sulayman, a motorcycle driver.

In Lanao del Norte, the MILF stormed Barangay Pangao anew on Thursday and killed a soldier.

Five other soldiers were wounded in the attack, according to Maj. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing, commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro.

Expectedly, the MILF claimed the attacks were part of a "counter-offensive" against the military.

Saddened

While taking responsibility for the latest Pikit attack, rebel spokesperson Eid Kabalu said his group was also saddened by the loss of civilian lives, but that these were part of war's collateral damage.

In the midst of all the fighting, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) will send a mission to the Philippines to assess the progress of peace efforts with local Muslim separatists.

"Preparations are now ongoing for the visit of a team of officials and observers from the OIC sometime next month to strengthen avenues of cooperation," Ms Macapagal said in a statement. *With Martin P. Marfil and AFP*

Did military order ex-rebels to kill Mindoro activists?

THE FACT-FINDING team investigating the death of two activists in Oriental Mindoro is following up on a statement by witnesses that the military had used ex-rebels to carry out the murders.

"We are now looking into this claim," a member of the Department of Justice's Task Force Mindoro yesterday told the INQUIRER. The source quoted the witnesses as saying that "rebel returnees" murdered human rights advocate Eden Marcellana and peasant leader Eddie Gumanoy on orders of certain members of the Philippine Army's 204th Infantry Brigade.

After meeting with distrust, Task Force Mindoro led by Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida has gained the confidence of Marcellana's group, Karapatan, and other militant organizations.

Calida said Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, Karapatan leaders and relatives of Marcellana and Gumanoy had visited the DOJ main office in Manila and expressed "willingness to help" the task force uncover the mastermind and perpetrators.

"I'm very happy to announce that our discussions were very fruitful. They now consider our team as credible and serious in our task to solve the murders," Calida said in an interview.

He said that as a sign of cooperation, Ocampo and Karapatan leaders had promised to produce nine witnesses to pin down the 204th Infantry Brigade.

Earlier, members of militant groups in Oriental Mindoro said they doubted the sincerity of the task force to bring to justice the killers of Marcellana and Gumanoy.

Even Marcellana's widower, Orly, had described the task force as "inutile" and "a mere cosmetic for an eventual whitewash."

He said that in his five-day stay in Manila prior to his wife's burial, no one from the task force had come to him to make inquiries. "That task force is a joke," he said.

Calida said that with the support expressed by the families of Gumanoy and Marcellana, the task force, "together with the Karapatan witnesses," was preparing to return to Oriental Mindoro to continue the investigation.

But members of the National Bureau of Investigation, who are attached to the fact-finding team, have been stationed in the province to follow up on the leads provided by more than 10 other witnesses, he said.

On April 28, Calida put certain members of the 204th IB under formal investigation. He refused to name the soldiers. *Michael Lim Ubac*

RP won't ban meat from SARS-hit countries

By C. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINE government has no plans of issuing an outright ban on meat and meat products from countries affected by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

Bureau of Animal Industry Director Dr. Jose Q. Molina said any drastic action on the part of the Philippines banning meat and meat products from SARS-affected countries might be misconstrued as another trade barrier in the form of what are commonly called sanitary and phytosanitary considerations.

Molina said a joint statement issued by the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Office International des Epizooties at the end of April 2003 indicated that "studies do not at present conclude that any goods, products or animals arriving from SARS-affected areas pose a risk to public health.

"WHO will continue to closely monitor the evolution of SARS, in collaboration with member-states and partner organizations," the joint statement said.

Molina expressed the fear that "should we ban meat imports from China, Canada and other countries hit by SARS, these countries could retaliate and ban our exports of canned and fresh tuna, carrageen and other agricultural products using the same reasoning."

Data from the Department of Trade and Industry showed that the Philippines exported a total of $369.62 million worth of marine products in 2001, the bulk of which was bought by Japan, followed by the US, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Korea. Canada, another SARS-affected country, bought $9.888 million worth of marine products.

Meanwhile, at the Senate, Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday there was no need for senators to wear protective face masks in the premises since there are no SARS cases in Manila.

Drilon said wearing protective masks during sessions seemed to be an "overreaction."

Told that the House of Representatives was requiring its members to wear masks, Drilon said, "That's their own business."

Sen. Juan Flavier, health secretary in the Ramos administration, concurred with Drilon. *With Christine O. Avendaño*

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Veep 'confused' on Iraq

BAGUIO CITY—Just what is the Philippine position with regard to Iraq now that the war there is officially over?

Vice President Teofisto Guingona said here that he was "confused" about President Macapagal-Arroyo's policy toward Iraq—whether the government would back UN intervention or retain its commitment to the "coalition of the willing" which has been staking its claim over Iraq.

"I am as confused as the rest of you," he told the INQUIRER here.

Guingona, who served briefly as Ms Macapagal's foreign secretary, was opposed to the US-led war on Iraq.

He said he had objected to Philippine support for the war because US President George W. Bush launched the military campaign without the backing of the UN.

Windel Bolinget, vice chair of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA), said Malacañang is aware the US has failed to unearth weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and may be uncertain about the high moral stand taken by Bush.

"Perhaps Guingona was trying to be indirect about (the Palace's foreign policy), but he is saying the President is confronted by the absence of evidence for the US aggression, and may be on the verge of shifting her position," he said in Filipino. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Bt corn protest grows

MORE groups have come out in support of the hunger strikers protesting the government policy allowing the planting of Bt, or genetically modified, corn in the country.

Non-government organizations concerned with women and farmer issues based in Quezon City yesterday organized a program to keep the strikers and their followers informed of the ill-effects of Bt corn.

The Artists for the Environment also expressed support for the strikers, with singers Noel Cabangon, Heber Bartolome and Jess Santiago collaborating on a ballad, "Ang Taghoy ng Ginahasang Mais," to take the issue of Bt corn to the general public.

Meralco, Napocor settle P28-B contract tiff

By Abigail L. Ho and Carlito Pablo

AFTER A mediation process, the state-run National Power Corp. and the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. have reached an "amicable agreement" on their 10-year supply contract, something that the government says could bring down the cost of electricity.

Napocor and Meralco opted for mediation procedures two months ago when discussions on the validity of the supply contract bogged down.

Under the April 30 agreement, Meralco will pay Napocor around P28 billion (at P1.51 per kilowatt-hour), minus adjustments, for undrawn electricity under the 10-year contract, which lapses at the end of 2004.

Of the P28 billion, Meralco will shell out only P20 billion over a five-year period. The remaining P8 billion will fall under "delays in turnover of directly connected consumers," which Napocor is shouldering under the deal.

Meralco president Jesus Francisco explained yesterday that the P20 billion included estimated penalties for 2002 to 2004, assuming that Meralco gets to purchase lower than the minimum 3,600 MW monthly requirement.

Earlier, in her Labor Day speech, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced that Napocor would down-scale power production to give privately owned independent power producers (IPPs) full participation in electricity generation.

This, Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in a radio interview, would lower the widely protested purchased power adjustment (PPA) in electricity bills.

The PPA is an automatic cost recovery mechanism that allows producers and distributors to recoup their losses, with consumers bearing the brunt in higher bills.

Some IPP contracts with the government, most of them signed during the Ramos administration, provide that they would get to be paid even if they did not produce electricity, or even if their production was not actually used.

"We will maximize the capacity of these IPPs (to) lower their cost of production and hence . . . lower the bills of our consumers," Bunye said over station dzEM.

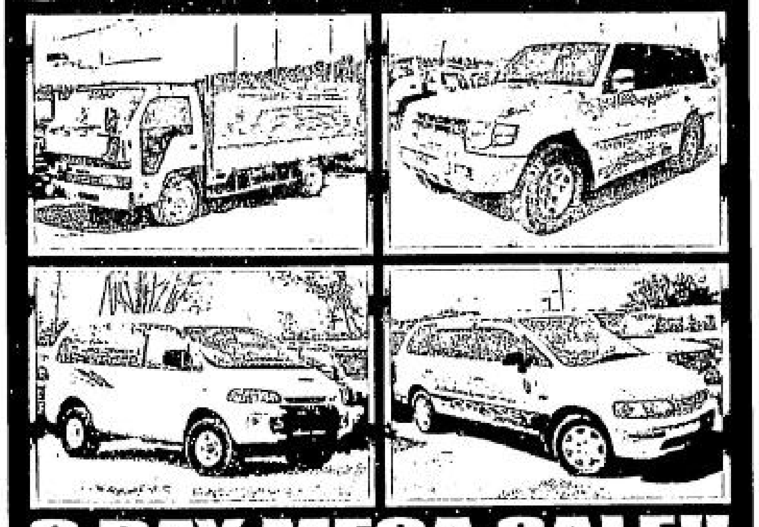
In short, it's business as usual for the IPPs, which engendered the PPA.

Based on generation rates in March, the PPA could go down by as much as 25 centavos per kWh. Ms Macapagal said this would be reflected in electricity bills beginning in July.

The Napocor-Meralco agreement will be submitted for review and approval to the Energy Regulatory Commission, according to the mediators, former Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordonez and World Energy Council chair Antonio del Rosario.

At the height of public outrage against the PPA last year, the Macapagal administration undertook a review of 35 IPP contracts. An inter-agency review committee established that five were defective; six passed without defects; 22 needed to be renegotiated; and two contracts had been suspended pending "remedial issues" although they were financially sound.

SW MOTORS



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Mefenamic Acid tab. 500 mg	✓	1.80	19.70	17.90/tab
Paracetamol syrup 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	21.00	63.50	42.50/bot
Paracetamol tab 500 mg	✓	0.75	2.35	1.60/tab
Antiobiotic (Kontra-Bakterya)				
Amoxicillin cap. 250 mg	✓	3.10	8.95	5.85/cap
Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	3.70	15.50	11.80/cap
Amoxicillin drops 125 mg/1.25 ml/10 ml	✓	37.00	80.75	43.75/bot
Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	49.00	144.00	95.00/bot
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓	3.40	37.75	34.35/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	41.40	394.75	353.35/bot
Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓	2.30	24.00	21.70/tab
Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓	2.60	13.50	10.90/cap
Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	✓	25.00	115.75	90.75/bot
Anti-cough (Para sa Ubo)				
Bromhexine HCL syrup 4 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	26.70	71.75	45.05/bot
Carbocisteine cap. 500 mg	✓	2.40	12.30	9.90/cap
Carbocisteine susp. 100 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	32.70	87.25	54.55/bot

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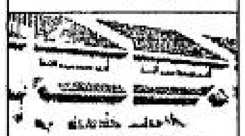

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Refunding P28-B a 'nightmare'

By Michelle V. Remo

"IT'S a nightmare."

While vowing to implement "as soon as possible" the Supreme Court ruling for Meralco to give back to consumers P28 billion in excess charges, the Energy Regulatory Commission has admitted that the mechanics of the refund was "a tough nut to crack."

New ERC chair Manuel Sanchez said his office was simultaneously studying proposals from various groups on how to carry out the SC order, and seeking ways to minimize delays in its implementation.

Speaking before members of the Federation of Philippine Industries last Tuesday, Sanchez said an estimated 3.5 million "small consumers" and about 350,000 industrial clients were entitled to the refund.

He said identifying the 3.5 million alone was a "nightmare situation," since many of them did not have their own electric meters. These included power consumers in slum areas who had merely tapped into neighbors' lines, but who also paid monthly bills, he said.

Another problem scenario, Sanchez said, would be refunding consumers who merely rent space in others' homes. "If a landlord has tenants who pay for their electric consumption, why should he get the refund?"

This was his baptism of fire in the post, Sanchez said. He called on all concerned sectors to stay calm: "The commision is doing its best."

PPA hike belies GMA May Day promise–FDC

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's Labor Day "gift" to workers was an attempt to deceive consumers and raise her sagging popularity.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) said it arrived at this conclusion after analyzing the President's pledge to reduce electric bills beginning in July through a number of measures such as the lowering of the Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA).

The FDC also corrected the impression made in Labor Day statements that the P28-billion Meralco refund was a gift from the President.

"The 28-billion refund is the consumers' money, not a gift from GMA," an FDC statement said.

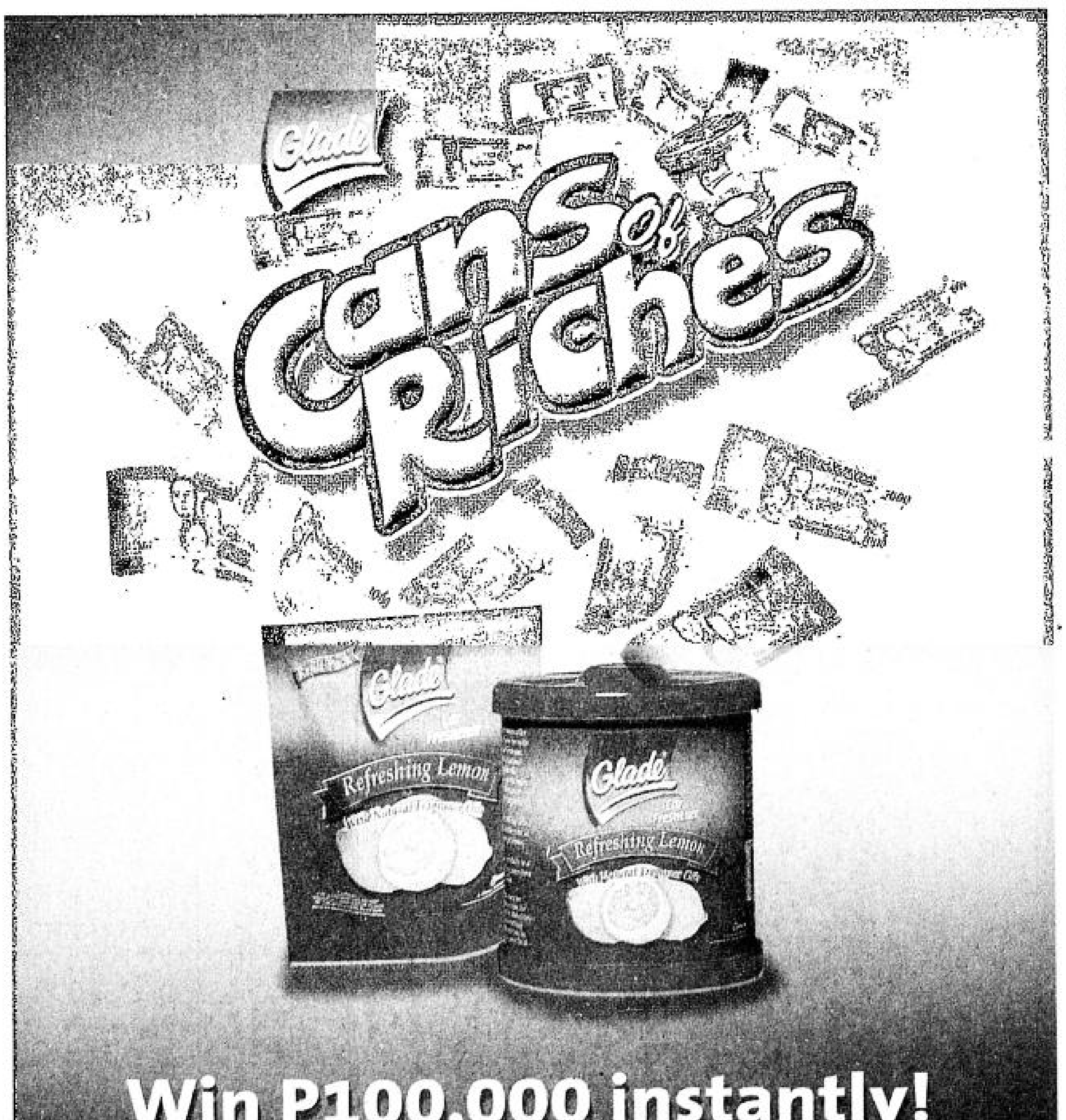
The FDC, which has been waging a campaign to abolish the PPA, said the President's Labor Day statement was a "deja vu" of one she made in 2002.

The non-government think-tank recalled that Ms Macapagal announced a reduction in the PPA in May 2002, resulting in its temporary decrease in July 2002 but it has continued to increase since then.

The PPA reached P2.899/kWh in May 2002, close to the original charge of P3.30/kWh in May 2002.

"This time around, we may not even feel the reduction because of the series of rate increases," the FDC statement said.

The PPA will increase next month with the collection of Meralco's P0.0878/kWh deferred PPA. This will put the PPA for May 2003 at P2.986/kWh.



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From page A1

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From page A1

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The whole region has been battered by SARS, with the aviation industry especially suffering because of travel restrictions and people's fear of contracting the disease while in transit.

In India, an official of the 240-member Indian Pilots Guild said the pilots had decided to resume flying to cities affected by SARS after a week-long strike, which had particularly hit Air India's flights to the Gulf regions.

And in Switzerland, the German news agency SID reported that cycling's world track championships, scheduled to take place in China on July 30-Aug. 3, had been cancelled because of fears over SARS.

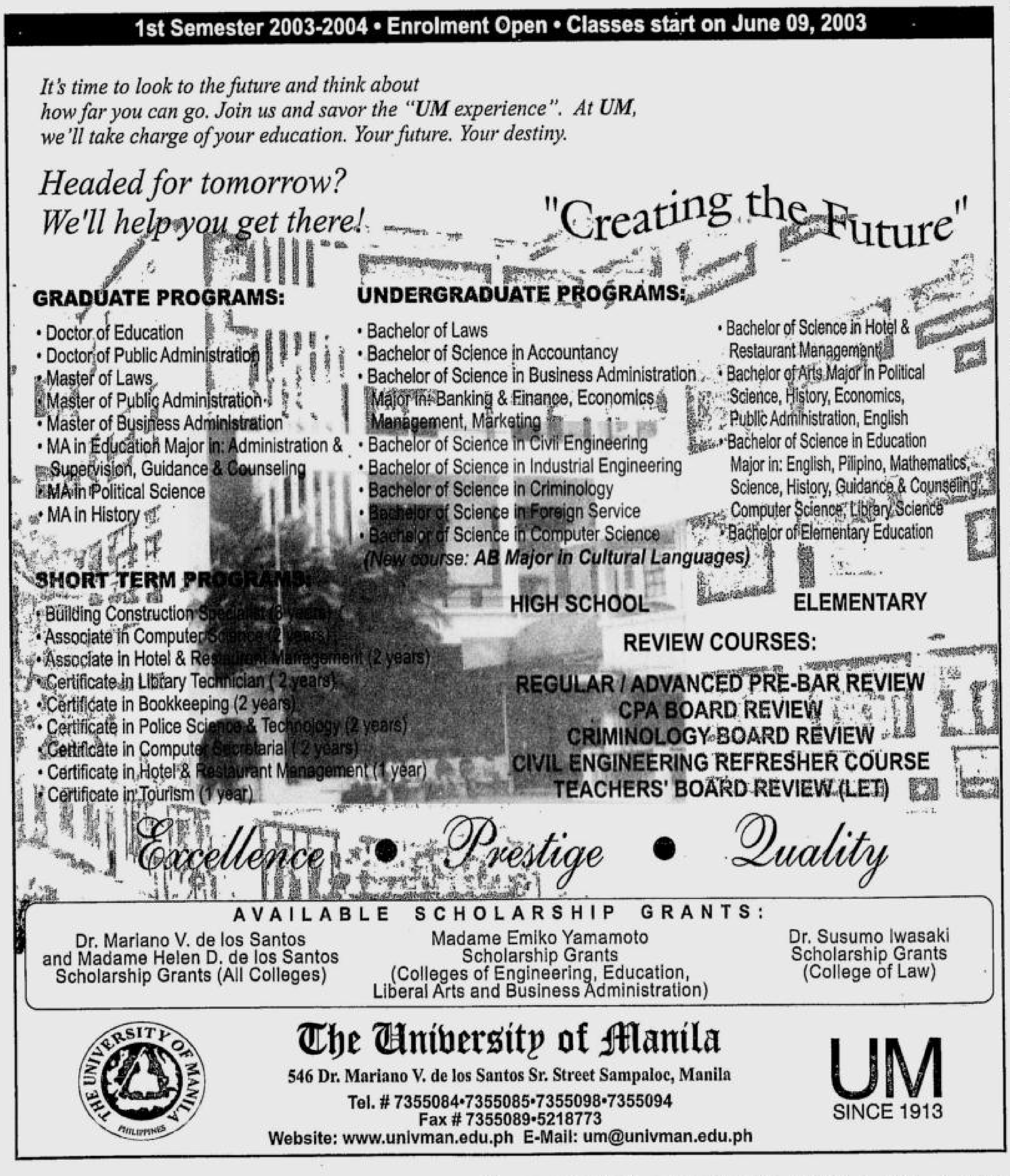
Cross-border issue

Piamsak Milintachinda, executive director of the Apec secretariat in Singapore, said SARS was "a cross-border issue that has affected confidence in key sectors in Apec economies."

"In the space of two months this unknown virus has caused disruption to both people's lives and economies of the region," he said.

He also said the June 2-3 meeting would be "one of the highest level intergovernmental meetings to discuss the SARS issue," which "could have serious implications to trade and investment in the region."

The trade ministers will assess the economic and social impact of SARS, look at progress made in containing it, agree on joint action to rebuild business confidence, and set plans in motion to enhance business mobility and facilitate trade expansion, Piamsak said. *AFP*



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SARS BRIEFS

Drinking alcohol will not prevent it

SINGAPORE—Drinking beer will not prevent SARS, abstaining from pork will not boost immunity, and all races are vulnerable.

In a bid to dispel myths surrounding SARS, the Singapore government has sought to disprove quack cures and baseless fears about the epidemic which has killed at least 24 people out of 201 cases here.

Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong used a May Day union gathering to shoot down SARS myths, and his remarks were played up by local media Friday.

He went to the extent of issuing the racial breakdown of SARS cases to dispel a claim that ethnic Indians are immune: 65 percent are ethnic Chinese, 13 percent Malay and 10 percent Indian, roughly reflecting Singapore's racial diversity.

"So no racial group is immune," Lee said.

"Abstaining from pork will not increase your immunity. Although alcohol kills viruses, drinking alcohol will not prevent SARS," he said.

"And I hear that some people think that smoking wards off SARS!"

AFP

Beijing studes restricted

BEIJING—Beijing has imposed restrictions on university students leaving the city to limit the spread of the SARS virus, requiring health checks and barring them from going to rural or SARS-affected areas, a Communist Party official said Friday.

Only students who are found to be in good health without fevers or other symptoms of SARS will be allowed to leave the Chinese capital, said Cai Fuchao, spokesperson for the city's party committee.

"These regulations have been adopted to make sure that the college and university students will not be affected, and that other provinces . . . will not be infected by those moving out of Beijing," Cai said at a news conference.

Students who receive permission to leave Beijing may not go to rural areas, SARS-affected areas or China's west, Cai said.

AP

Scientists stumped

WASHINGTON—Scientists who have sequenced all the genetic material of the SARS virus said on Thursday they are still stumped by the previously unknown microbe.

They said it had yielded virtually no clues about where it came from or why it infects and sometimes kills people. And because there is nothing similar to compare it with, it will take some time to tease out its secrets.

But having the genome sequenced and published will help researchers speed out better diagnostic tests for SARS and design drugs or vaccines to fight it, the international team of researchers said.

"The fact that it is so different from other viruses has made it difficult," Mark Pallansch of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told a telephone briefing.

Pallansch and an international group of colleagues mapped the entire gene sequence of the SARS virus in just two weeks. Theirs was a sample taken from World Health Organization official Dr. Carlo Urbani, who died from SARS in March after treating a patient.

Reuters

Arms raised, GMA turns to prayer in Palace rally

From page A1

alone. Jesus is Lord over the Philippines, amen and amen and amen!" she cried out, to the cheers of the audience who mostly belonged to the Jesus is Lord Christian fundamentalist group.

JIL leader Eddie Villanueva had suggested the prayer rally to the President.

The President began calmly, repeating her message to the residents of Barangay Vacante in Alcala, Pangasinan, in the morning.

It was when she began her long prayer that she became agitated.

But Villanueva's hour-long "prayer for the President" was longer than the President's prayer.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit and a handful of Cabinet officials read biblical passages.

Various religious leaders also offered prayers: Catholic Bishop Deogracias Yniguez of Zambales prayed for a cure for SARS; Ide Tillah, chair of the National Ecumenical Consultative Committee, prayed for the people not to panic; Bishop Fred Magbanua, chair of the Council of Christian Bishops of the Philippines, prayed for effective government action to prevent an outbreak; Bishop Efraim Tendero, national director of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, prayed for effective public information; and Bishop Dan Bais, chair of the Intercessors for the Philippines, prayed for the eradication of SARS.

Doc who first spotted SARS virus hailed as saint

From page A1

whose warnings drew the world's attention to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), fits into the heroic category.

Parasitic disease expert

Urbani, a parasitic disease expert, was the World Health Organization's (WHO) top infectious disease specialist in Vietnam and an uncannily good diagnostician.

When the French Hospital in Hanoi called the WHO on Feb. 28 for advice on a Chinese-American businessman who had fallen ill with suspected atypical pneumonia, Urbani was the first on the scene.

But his close contact with SARS patients over the next 10 days was to prove fatal, and on March 11 he was hospitalized shortly after flying to Bangkok for a meeting. Eighteen days later, he was dead.

"Carlo was one of the UN family's everyday heroes," Jordan Ryan, coordinator of United Nations activities in Vietnam, wrote in the International Herald Tribune.

"These heroes choose to work where the challenges are, just as Carlo didn't hesitate to attend those sick from SARS at their hospital bedsides in Hanoi."

Urbani's foresight and insistence were crucial to Vietnam's efforts to contain the disease, according to Pascale Brudon, the WHO's representative to Vietnam, and a close colleague.

After monitoring the businessman's symptoms in daily visits and the subsequent chain of infection among those in close contact with the patient, Urbani realized that something was abnormal.

He instructed hospital staff about protective measures, including patient isolation, high-filter masks, and double-gowning—not routine measures in Vietnam.

"Carlo saw the potential of the infectivity of this disease and on March 5 said we must inform the government, so we did. The following evening we decided to send a request to WHO headquarters for technical assistance," Brudon told AFP in an interview.

Over the next two days, Urbani explained to health ministry officials the need to isolate patients, despite the panic it would cause and its negative impact on Vietnam's overseas image.

Team of int'l experts

He also insisted on bringing the top levels of government into the loop, and, together with Brudon, secured agreement for the WHO to bring in a team of international disease control experts and for the establishment of a special government task force.

On April 28, a month after his death, the health ministry was able to announce that the outbreak of SARS in Vietnam had been brought under control. The virus had claimed five lives and infected 63 people.

"Had it not been for his recognition that the outbreak of the virus was something out of the ordinary, many more would have fallen victim to SARS," said Kofi Annan. *AFP*

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Isolation, humiliation over for Vacante

From page A1

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The slump in business led to the overall level of employment in Hong Kong—which was 7.5 percent in the three months to March—declining at the fastest rate for 17 months, with many businesses surveyed linking the increased pace of staff reduction directly to the impact of SARS, the research firm said.

The whole region has been battered by SARS, with the aviation industry especially suffering because of travel restrictions and people's fear of contracting the disease while in transit.

In India, an official of the 240-member Indian Pilots Guild said the pilots had decided to resume flying to cities affected by SARS after a week-long strike, which had particularly hit Air India's flights to the Gulf regions.

And in Switzerland, the German news agency SID reported that cycling's world track championships, scheduled to take place in China on July 30-Aug. 3, had been cancelled because of fears over SARS.

Cross-border issue

Piamsak Milintachinda, executive director of the Apec secretariat in Singapore, said SARS was "a cross-border issue that has affected confidence in key sectors in Apec economies."

"In the space of two months this unknown virus has caused disruption to both people's lives and economies of the region," he said.

He also said the June 2-3 meeting would be "one of the highest level intergovernmental meetings to discuss the SARS issue," which "could have serious implications to trade and investment in the region."

The trade ministers will assess the economic and social impact of SARS, look at progress made in containing it, agree on joint action to rebuild business confidence, and set plans in motion to enhance business mobility and facilitate trade expansion, Piamsak said. *AFP*

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SARS BRIEFS

Drinking alcohol will not prevent it

SINGAPORE—Drinking beer will not prevent SARS, abstaining from pork will not boost immunity, and all races are vulnerable.

In a bid to dispel myths surrounding SARS, the Singapore government has sought to disprove quack cures and baseless fears about the epidemic which has killed at least 24 people out of 201 cases here.

Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong used a May Day union gathering to shoot down SARS myths, and his remarks were played up by local media Friday.

He went to the extent of issuing the racial breakdown of SARS cases to dispel a claim that ethnic Indians are immune: 65 percent are ethnic Chinese, 13 percent Malay and 10 percent Indian, roughly reflecting Singapore's racial diversity.

"So no racial group is immune," Lee said.

"Abstaining from pork will not increase your immunity. Although alcohol kills viruses, drinking alcohol will not prevent SARS," he said.

"And I hear that some people think that smoking wards off SARS!"

AFP

Beijing studes restricted

BEIJING—Beijing has imposed restrictions on university students leaving the city to limit the spread of the SARS virus, requiring health checks and barring them from going to rural or SARS-affected areas, a Communist Party official said Friday.

Only students who are found to be in good health without fevers or other symptoms of SARS will be allowed to leave the Chinese capital, said Cai Fuchao, spokesperson for the city's party committee.

"These regulations have been adopted to make sure that the college and university students will not be affected, and that other provinces . . . will not be infected by those moving out of Beijing," Cai said at a news conference.

Students who receive permission to leave Beijing may not go to rural areas, SARS-affected areas or China's west, Cai said.

AP

Scientists stumped

WASHINGTON—Scientists who have sequenced all the genetic material of the SARS virus said on Thursday they are still stumped by the previously unknown microbe.

They said it had yielded virtually no clues about where it came from or why it infects and sometimes kills people. And because there is nothing similar to compare it with, it will take some time to tease out its secrets.

But having the genome sequenced and published will help researchers speed out better diagnostic tests for SARS and design drugs or vaccines to fight it, the international team of researchers said.

"The fact that it is so different from other viruses has made it difficult," Mark Pallansch of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told a telephone briefing.

Pallansch and an international group of colleagues mapped the entire gene sequence of the SARS virus in just two weeks. Theirs was a sample taken from World Health Organization official Dr. Carlo Urbani, who died from SARS in March after treating a patient.

Reuters

Arms raised, GMA turns to prayer in Palace rally

From page A1

alone. Jesus is Lord over the Philippines, amen and amen and amen!" she cried out, to the cheers of the audience who mostly belonged to the Jesus is Lord Christian fundamentalist group.

JIL leader Eddie Villanueva had suggested the prayer rally to the President.

The President began calmly, repeating her message to the residents of Barangay Vacante in Alcala, Pangasinan, in the morning.

It was when she began her long prayer that she became agitated.

But Villanueva's hour-long "prayer for the President" was longer than the President's prayer.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit and a handful of Cabinet officials read biblical passages.

Various religious leaders also offered prayers: Catholic Bishop Deogracias Yniguez of Zambales prayed for a cure for SARS; Ide Tillah, chair of the National Ecumenical Consultative Committee, prayed for the people not to panic; Bishop Fred Magbanua, chair of the Council of Christian Bishops of the Philippines, prayed for effective government action to prevent an outbreak; Bishop Efraim Tendero, national director of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, prayed for effective public information; and Bishop Dan Bais, chair of the Intercessors for the Philippines, prayed for the eradication of SARS.

Doc who first spotted SARS virus hailed as saint

From page A1

whose warnings drew the world's attention to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), fits into the heroic category.

Parasitic disease expert

Urbani, a parasitic disease expert, was the World Health Organization's (WHO) top infectious disease specialist in Vietnam and an uncannily good diagnostician.

When the French Hospital in Hanoi called the WHO on Feb. 28 for advice on a Chinese-American businessman who had fallen ill with suspected atypical pneumonia, Urbani was the first on the scene.

But his close contact with SARS patients over the next 10 days was to prove fatal, and on March 11 he was hospitalized shortly after flying to Bangkok for a meeting. Eighteen days later, he was dead.

"Carlo was one of the UN family's everyday heroes," Jordan Ryan, coordinator of United Nations activities in Vietnam, wrote in the International Herald Tribune.

"These heroes choose to work where the challenges are, just as Carlo didn't hesitate to attend those sick from SARS at their hospital bedsides in Hanoi."

Urbani's foresight and insistence were crucial to Vietnam's efforts to contain the disease, according to Pascale Brudon, the WHO's representative to Vietnam, and a close colleague.

After monitoring the businessman's symptoms in daily visits and the subsequent chain of infection among those in close contact with the patient, Urbani realized that something was abnormal.

He instructed hospital staff about protective measures, including patient isolation, high-filter masks, and double-gowning—not routine measures in Vietnam.

"Carlo saw the potential of the infectivity of this disease and on March 5 said we must inform the government, so we did. The following evening we decided to send a request to WHO headquarters for technical assistance," Brudon told AFP in an interview.

Over the next two days, Urbani explained to health ministry officials the need to isolate patients, despite the panic it would cause and its negative impact on Vietnam's overseas image.

Team of int'l experts

He also insisted on bringing the top levels of government into the loop, and, together with Brudon, secured agreement for the WHO to bring in a team of international disease control experts and for the establishment of a special government task force.

On April 28, a month after his death, the health ministry was able to announce that the outbreak of SARS in Vietnam had been brought under control. The virus had claimed five lives and infected 63 people.

"Had it not been for his recognition that the outbreak of the virus was something out of the ordinary, many more would have fallen victim to SARS," said Kofi Annan. *AFP*

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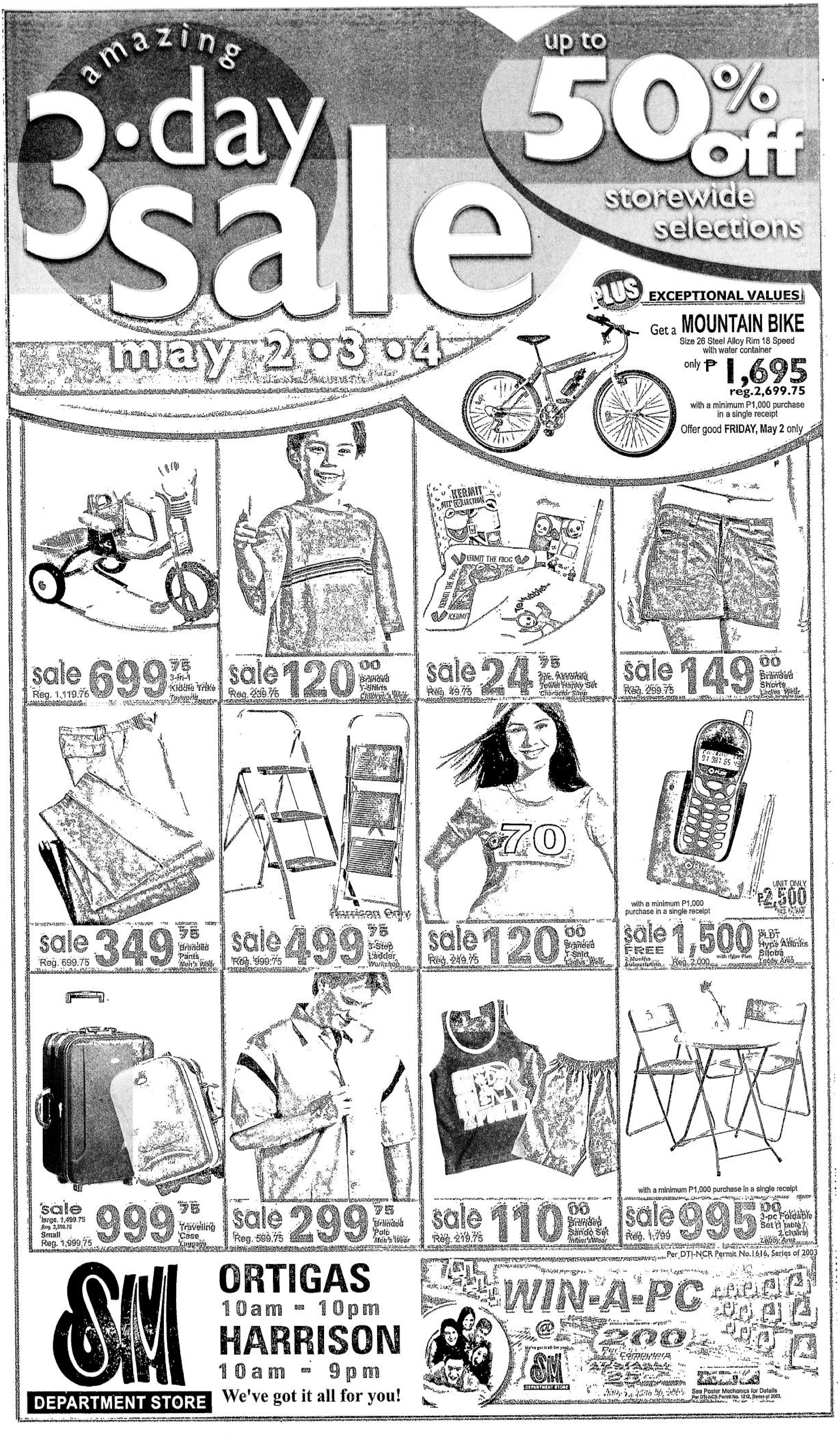

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SARS DOH OFFICIAL ADVISORY

SATURDAY 3 May 2003

NO SARS FROM "UKAY-UKAY"

The DOH declared that clothes bought from "UKAY-UKAY" or objects such as paper bills, coins, and fruits are not likely to transmit the SARS virus. This is because the virus needs a living thing in order to multiply and survive.

Q. HOW DO I GET SARS?

A. SARS is spread by close person-to-person contact. You can get SARS if you breathe in droplets and body fluids (saliva, mucus, sweat, blood, urine, etc.) of an infected person.

Most cases of SARS have involved people who:
a.) cared for or lived with someone with SARS; and
b.) had direct contact with infectious materials (e.g. respiratory secretions) from a person who has SARS.

Remember that a SARS patient is infectious only if he/she exhibits symptoms such as fever and cough, and maximally infective when having respiratory distress.

However, the corona virus - the cause of SARS, does not live outside the body for more than three hours. Thus, it is best to maintain personal hygiene or cleanliness and disinfect or wash your hands frequently.

Reported SARS cases in the Country
(March 17 - May 2, 2003)

SARS suspects, total admitted
total discharged
still confined
SARS cases
SARS deaths

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Fil-Canadian doctor critical

From page A1

the RITM were "both okay."

"She still has low-grade fever, but there are no signs of pneumonia," Olveda said of the doctor, who had been directly exposed to Mauricio Catalon, Adela's father, who also died of SARS complications.

The nurse has been "'afebrile'—out of fever—for 48 hours now," Olveda said.

"They are both okay," he said, adding that if the nurse continues to be feverless for 72 hours, they will already take him off isolation.

Cabanban rued the fact that, like their colleagues at RITM, the 800-strong staff at San Lazaro are also discriminated against by people who know where they work.

"I've heard stories like that from my staff, but we have to go on with our medical duties," he said.

National network

Responding to criticism from Vice President Teofisto Guingona that a nationwide network of SARS clinics would send the wrong signal to the international community, Olveda, the chief of the country's main SARS treatment facility, defended the plan.

"It is better to be overly prepared to handle SARS cases than be caught unprepared when (a) SARS outbreak shall have occurred all over the archipelago."

"What we are doing is to prepare the country to fight infectious diseases in the long term," said Olveda of the ongoing preparations to turn regional health centers in the cities of Baguio, Cebu and Davao into SARS clinics with facilities and expertise similar to those of the RITM.

The centers will attend to serious diseases even after the SARS problem is over. He cited, for instance, the problem of treating "multi-drug resistant tuberculosis," which requires the use of negative pressure rooms.

"We should be prepared for these other diseases," he told the INQUIRER.

Filipino-Canadian MD

NY, the Filipino-Canadian doctor, was initially reported dead on April 21, but on April 24 the INQUIRER reported that he was, in fact, alive, after his medical secretary spoke on the record.

The confusion among members of the Filipino-Canadian community in Toronto over whether the doctor had died or not was partly because of official Canadian policy against identifying SARS patients and fatalities.

The doctor's secretary in his clinic in Scarborough City in the eastern part of Metro Toronto, said in a phone interview that the confusion arose after the death of another SARS patient at Sunnybrook, where the doctor was confined.

The secretary said the doctor, whom she said was in his 50s, developed chills and exhibited other symptoms of SARS on the night of April 4, and was brought to Sunnybrook.

Two international news agencies also reported the death of the Toronto doctor, citing two Philippine health officials.

The Associated Press quoted Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit as saying that the "physician in Canada who died of SARS ... contracted the disease from another SARS patient who has also died and who was a member of the Philippine Roman Catholic community, Bukas Loob sa Diyos."

Agence France Presse, on the other hand, based the report of the doctor's death on a statement made by Chito Navarro of the Department of Health's SARS task force.

RP Embassies on double duty

THE COUNTRY'S 84 foreign service posts are doing double duty in a time of SARS: They monitor suspect SARS cases among Filipinos abroad while convincing their host governments to continue trading with and sending tourists to the Philippines.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople has instructed all Philippine embassies and consulates to distribute SARS information material to Filipino communities abroad and conduct regular briefings.

Ople also tasked the foreign service posts to monitor the SARS situation in their respective areas and update the DFA regularly.

Since much of the country's trade and tourism is conducted with the Unite d States and Japan, the embassies in Washington DC and Tokyo have also been keen on regularly informing their host governments about the SARS situation in the country.

The embassies in Singapore, Hanoi, Beijing, Kuala Lumpur and the Consulate-General in Toronto—all SARS-stricken areas—compile regular SARS monitoring reports that they submit to the DFA.

In Europe, the embassies in London, Rome, Berlin, Brussels and Paris have set up SARS information desks. *Norman Bordadora*

Philip Morris ...

From page A1

Philip Morris Philippines Inc. on Thursday asked some 1,000 delegates to the Youth for Environment Summer Camp at the Teachers Camp here to encourage their congressmen to craft new laws that would prohibit young people from smoking.

The stalled Tobacco Regulatory Act (House Bill No. 5950), which prohibits the sale of tobacco to minors, is among the laws it is asking children to lobby for.

But the Philip Morris campaign drew skepticism from the young delegates.

Lawyer Amy Berbase, a campaign coordinator for Philip Morris, had to assure them that the firm was willing to lose future smokers just to ensure that no more Filipino children would be tempted to smoke.

She said the firm had been criticized for using the campaign as "reverse psychology" to draw more teenagers to its products.

Berbase told the delegates that her father died from an illness that might have been aggravated by smoking four packs of cigarettes a day. "I myself do not smoke," she said.

She admitted that smoking was a killer and had been medically validated as the source of some of the deadliest diseases known to humans.

Addiction

The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Alliance Philippines maintains that the tobacco firms' primary target markets are children. The firms spend up to P700 million a year in cigarette advertising.

"Smoking is a deadly addiction, responsible for four million deaths each year," the alliance said. "By using words like 'choice,' the industry diverts attention from the well-established devastating health impacts of tobacco. Because nicotine is as addictive as heroin or cocaine, using tobacco is not a choice once you're hooked. And the nicotine industry hooks 60 percent of its customers before they're even 14 years old."

Berbase said Philip Morris was prepared to lose a new generation of smokers now that it had launched the campaign.

She announced that the firm would release next month campaign posters and stickers no longer bearing its brand or corporate identity.

Berbase was referring to a popular sticker bearing the phrase "Below 18 years, not for sale to minors."

The sticker displays a traffic signboard with a cigarette crossed over the number 18. The Philip Morris brand is set above the traffic sign, and the logos of its crusade partners, Philippine Jaycees Inc. and Sangguniang Kabataan, are positioned at the lower corners.

"This year, we will sustain this campaign anonymously," Berbase said in Filipino. "We will go out of the country, we will go to the barangays, and it doesn't matter that people are unaware about Philip Morris' participation in this crusade as long as we can prove our sincerity to society."

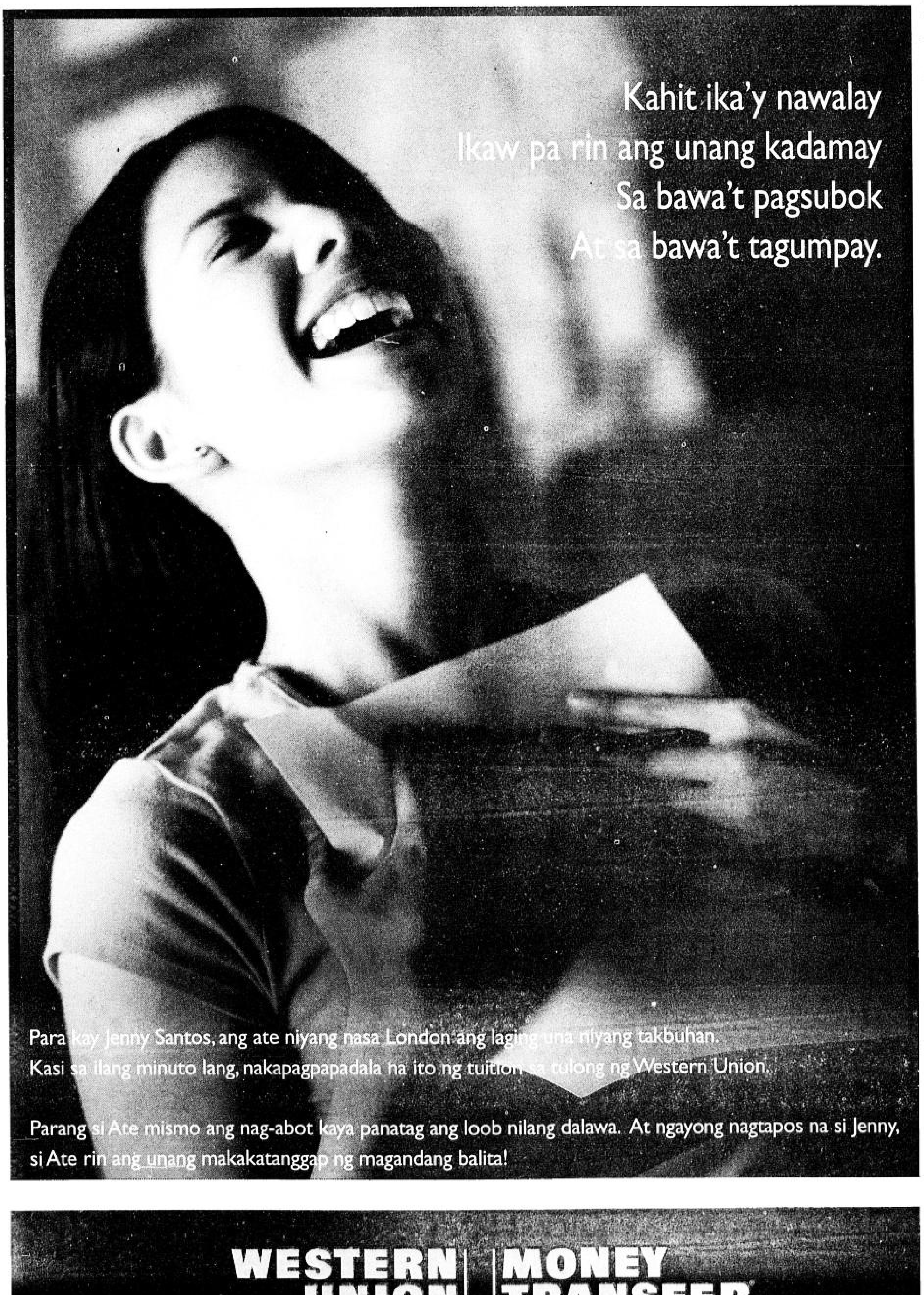
Maturity

In Candon City, Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson said House Bill No. 5950 would soon force newspapers and other media outfits to first prove their "maturity" to attract advertising from tobacco companies.

The measure allows the media outfits to qualify for tobacco advertisement only if 75 percent of their readership or audience are older than 18.

The proposed tobacco regulation bill also restricts the broadcast of tobacco commercials after 7 p.m. and before 7 a.m., he said.

Singson said the measure would guarantee the reduction of the number of smokers by 10-20 percent initially. *With reports from Frank Cimatu and Leoncio Balbin, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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Erap 'not happy' with Ping as bet

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE "PROCLAMATION" of Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson as the opposition's presidential candidate in 2004 has managed to divide rather than unite the political opposition.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday he has learned from several sources that deposed President Joseph Estrada was far from happy about Lacson's "proclamation" by some members of the opposition on Tuesday.

"Several sources informed me that Estrada was disappointed because he was not consulted about it," Drilon said in a phone interview.

Another source told the INQUIRER that Estrada was particularly dismayed with Lito Banayo and San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora for not consulting him.

The Partido ng Masang Pilipino, of which Estrada is the titular head, led in endorsing Lacson as its standard-bearer next year.

Drilon noted that Estrada's wife, Sen. Luisa Ejercito, was not at the "proclamation." Actually, no one from the opposition in the Senate attended the event.

But another source pointed out that Estrada's son, J.V. Ejercito, was present.

In Bacolod City, Lacson on Thursday admitted the endorsement was tentative because the group was still open to other nominees. The final selection would be made later, he said.

He added that he had yet to get the support of former President Estrada and businessman Eduardo Cojuangco, founder of the Nationalist People's Coalition, who is being touted as a strong presidential coalition candidate.

"The declaration (on) Tuesday is not final," Lacson said.

But given a choice, Lacson said he would like to have Sen. Juan Flavier for his running mate. Flavier, however, might not want to run for health reasons—he has diabetes and his eyesight is failing, Lacson said.

Lacson said Estrada has not endorsed his presidential bid because the ex-President prefers that his best friend, actor Fernando Poe Jr., run for the top post.

"(Estrada) prefers Poe and he told me that. I realize that too, and accept it," he said.

Still, Lacson has launched a campaign to win the youth to his side using the three S's—sports, SARS education and symposia aimed at explaining the issues raised against him.

A pro-Lacson group, Youth for Progressive Leadership, has been formed to push his candidacy among young mostly first-time voters, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

Among YPL's plans are the holding of local sports fests and to "contribute to the education campaign on the prevention of SARS," according to Arnold Obina, a YPL member.

Much of the campaign would involve holding "youth symposia, student assemblies and community caucuses to explain the truth behind the issues". hounding Lacson, Obina said. *With Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau, Volt Contreras*

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Bill would make borrowing easier for small farmers

By Christine O. Avendaño
and Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE SENATE has moved to amend the 15-year-old Agrarian Reform Law to allow small farmers to put up the land awarded to them under the act as collateral so they would have capital to farm it.

Senate Bill No. 2553, or "Farmland as Collateral," sponsored by Sen. Sergio Osmeña III also seeks to amend Section 6 of the law which prohibits any person from owning more than five hectares of land.

In his sponsorship speech, Osmeña said the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) has denied farmer-beneficiaries the "moral, legal and economic right" to the land given them.

He said the framers of CARL had "overlooked" the fact that small farmers had little or no operating capital or access to the formal credit market.

Thus they tend to go to "informal lenders" who charge interest rates as high as 80 percent a year, "virtually (wiping) out (the farmers') profits," he said.

Forced to do it

The farmers are forced to do this because CARL prohibits them from selling, transferring or conveying the lands for a period of 10 years, except to their heirs, the government or other qualified beneficiaries, Osmeña said.

They use their emancipation patents (the Cloa, or certificate of land ownership award) as collateral to secure loans, he said.

The bill would allow farmers to put up their land as collateral.

"Perhaps the biggest argument for adopting this measure is that the CARL had effectively shortchanged the farmer beneficiary by limiting his rights of ownership," Osmeña said.

At the Department of Agrarian Reform, a former official challenged Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan to have farmer-beneficiaries in Negros Occidental physically installed in the lands awarded to them within five days, if he aims to be "one of the best DAR secretaries."

Former Agrarian Reform Undersecretary Jose Noel Olano, who served during the Ramos administration, is a board member and adviser of Task Force Mapalad, which groups farmer-beneficiaries of the contested landholdings in Negros Occidental.

Twelve farmer-beneficiaries are on the third day of a camp-out in front of the DAR office in Quezon City to press for the distribution of the properties awarded to them. The former owners of the properties—the Benedicto, Cuenca, Gustilo, Lopez and Lizares families—are reportedly resisting the awards.

Ruse lets travelers evade travel tax

FOREIGNERS and Filipinos alike residing in the Philippines resort to buying airline tickets abroad so they would not have to pay the travel tax.

Robert Lim Joseph, president of the Save Our Skies Movement (SOS), said the practice deprives the government of much-needed revenue and should be stopped.

Joseph said a prohibition against the practice of buying airline tickets abroad has been in effect since Sept. 11, 1985, when then President Ferdinand Marcos issued a Letter of Instruction ordering the Civil Aeronautics Board to see to it that the prohibition was observed by all airline companies doing business in the Philippines.

The LOI also stated that "...the violation of such prohibition shall constitute sufficient cause for imposing the proper penalty in accordance with the law, including the suspension and cancellation of permits issued against such airlines and travel agencies," Joseph said.

The SOS president said several travel agents have also complained of other agents who are not registered abetting the practice.

Joseph said the Philippine Tourism Authority, the Board of Airline Representatives and the CAB should act immediately on the complaints of the legitimate travel agents.

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Vol. 18 No. 144
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2003

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 /
528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

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Stiff competition

EDITORIAL

IT is inaccurate and misleading to say, as some senators have put it, that the administration's plan to send a 500-man humanitarian mission to Iraq would make this country a "gatecrasher" because we have not been invited by anyone.

The purpose of the mission, as it has been explained to us, is to create goodwill among the Iraqi people while we compete with 50 other countries for sub-contracts for civil works projects in the reconstruction of Iraq.

Twenty nations have pledged, without invitation, humanitarian contributions for the reconstruction of Iraq. The countries include China, Canada, the European Commission, France, Germany, India, Japan, Ireland, South Korea, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Taiwan, Russia, Spain, South Korea, Kuwait and the Netherlands. The donations are in the form of cash, food, medicine, NGOs and supplies. Note that France, Russia and Germany, which blocked US moves to get Security Council authorization to invade Iraq, volunteered humanitarian aid. This fact disposes of the argument of gate-crashing.

The Philippine government's plan takes another form—a mission composed of civil sector, non-military personnel. This form has a familiar ring. It probably derives from our civic action and engineering teams in Vietnam or from our peacekeeping forces under United Nations auspices, as in East Timor.

Three questions are raised: Do we have money to finance the mission? Will the mission be exposed to risks in Iraq where up until now there is no transitional government and public order has not been restored? Will the mission enhance our opportunities to obtain civil works contracts?

To the first, the answer is, we don't know. No one really has the figures. Figures coming out of the Senate are no more than guesswork. To the second, there will be risks but no more than the risks facing UN or international humanitarian teams distributing food and medicine in Iraq or engineers repairing the burnt-out oil wells.

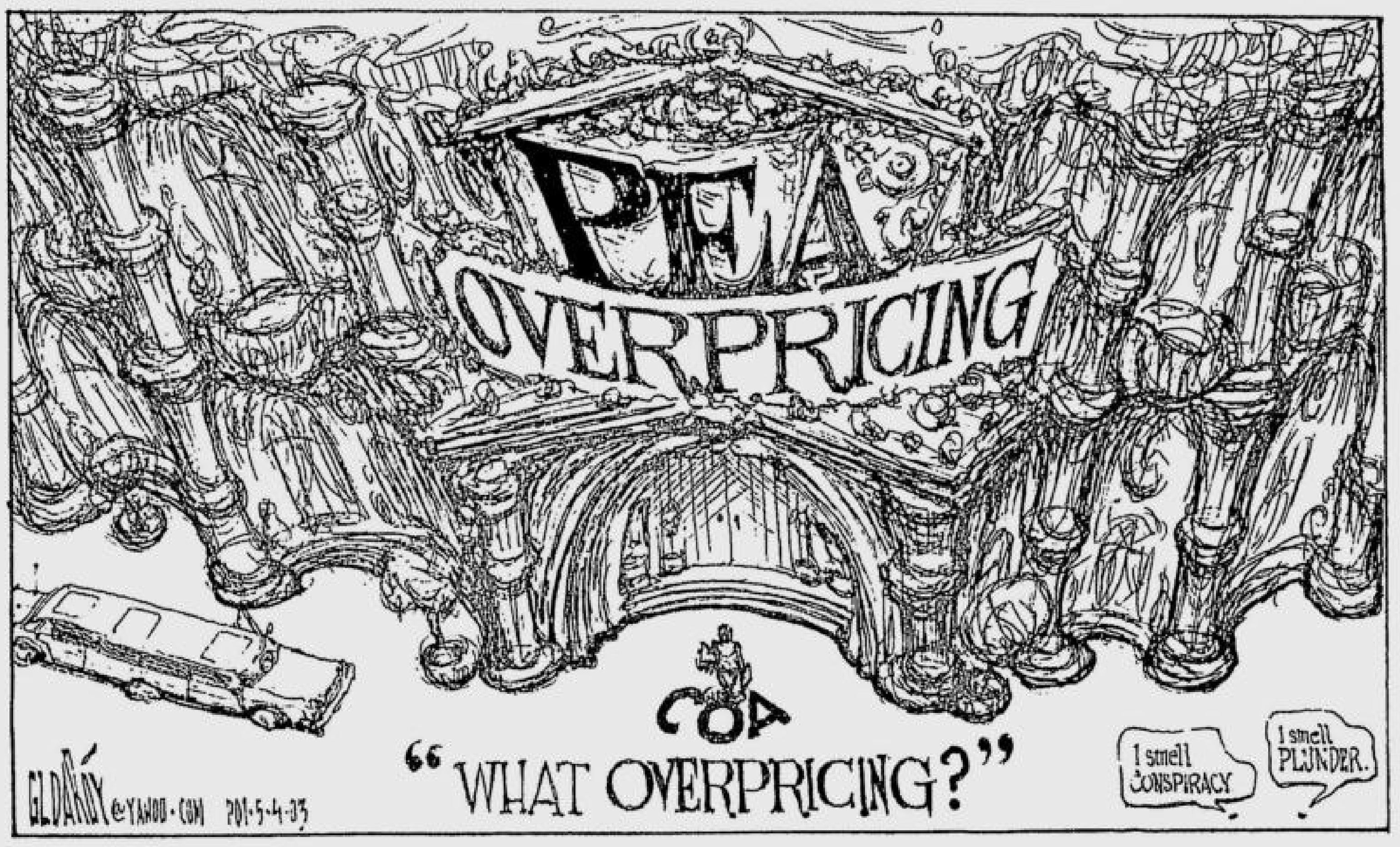
Roberto Romulo, head of the presidential task force responsible for seeking opportunities for Filipino workers and contractors to participate in the rebuilding of Iraq, says the humanitarian mission could be a goodwill-building effort with the Iraqi people. He added, however, that the mission is not tied to securing contracts. To put it differently, the mission is the human face that is hoped to dispel the impression that the Philippines is one of the many members of the "coalition of the willing" that are rushing into the reconstruction boom like carpetbaggers.

This "human face" approach should not, however, distract us from the fact that the Romulo task force represents an early effort to establish a presence in the reconstruction effort at a time when every bidder is assessing the field and is uncertain about what happens next.

In a highly competitive environment, where other countries seek employment opportunities for their workers and businesses, it pays to be on the spot early.

What is certain at this stage is that the USAID has awarded huge contracts to American contractors, among which are Bechtel Corp. and Halliburton of Texas, for capital construction projects to repair roads, bridges, ports, public buildings, electrical supply, water, irrigation and sanitation systems. The minor partners of the US-led coalition will have to deal with these American giants which will dole out sub-contracts. From the projects outlined above, it is clear where opportunities lie for Filipino contractors to mobilize local skills to supply the expected demand for services.

It is premature at this stage to estimate how many Filipino workers would be recruited for the projects. It is foolish to entertain high expectations of an employment and contract boom. What is sure is that competition will be stiff, and the Philippines would make a huge mistake if it thinks that because of the administration's support of US President George W. Bush's war policy, we will be given undue advantage. Our bids will be subjected to tough assessment. And it's best to remember that we don't have a monopoly of IT technicians, engineers, tradesmen, health workers, etc.



Regulating the local CATV industry

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

REMEMBER last October when five important channels of Destiny Cable were abruptly canceled to the annoyance of its thousands of subscribers? Destiny had contracted with the Star Group for those channels since 1995 for an annual term that was extended every year. Last August, however, Star reduced the term to two months but assured Destiny that everything was all right.

Destiny had complied with all its contractual obligations, including prompt payment of its rentals, but on Oct. 3, 2002, Star informed it that five of the channels would be withdrawn on Oct. 14. This was done over Destiny's protest. The withdrawn channels were the most important, via Star Movies International, Star Sports, Star World, ESPN and National Geographic. On top of the short notice, Star did not give Destiny any reason for the abrupt cancellation despite the long-standing and amiable relationship between them.

Destiny had earlier brought the matter to the attention of the National Telecommunications Commission, which declared in its letter to Star dated Oct. 10, 2002:

"The NTC strongly supports the policy of fair play and non-discrimination in the Philippine cable television industry. A program provider must make their channel offering available to all industry members. Any effort to limit their programs to a select few is deemed unfair and discriminatory, and promotes monopolistic business practices.

"Therefore, in the interest of public service and for the protection of the Philippine cable television industry, the Commission requests the Star Group to allow and/or authorize Destiny Cable, Inc. to continue carrying Star's programs in the same manner it has treated other CATV service providers under similar circumstances."

To date, Star has not complied with that request, insisting simply on its discriminatory contract with Destiny to the advantage of its favored competitors. They shall be nameless here but the reader may make an educated guess.

Reacting to the complaints of thousands of its subscribers, Destiny took up the matter with Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza. Destiny pointed out that it was not the only one that had been discriminated against; other cable companies could also be similarly prejudiced. Mendoza acted promptly and issued the following Department Circular 2003-01, which was received by the National Telecommunications Commission on March 21, 2003:

"SUBJECT: Regulation of the operation of Cable Television (CATV)

"The 1987 Constitution fully recognizes the role of communications in nation-building. It contains the following provisions: a) Art. XII, Sec. 1. The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth, b) Art. XII, Sec. 19. The State shall prohibit or regulate monopolies when the public interest so requires. No combinations in restraint of trade or unfair competition shall be allowed, c) Art. XVI, Sec. 10. The State shall provide the policy environment for the full development of Filipino capability and the emergence of communication structures suitable to the needs and aspirations of the nation and the balanced flow of information into, out of, and across the country in accordance with a policy that respects the freedom of speech and of the press.

"In view of the above and in order to promote fair and healthy competition in the cable television industry so as to provide the Filipino people the widest access possible to sources of news information, entertainment and data available from the CATV market, the Department of Transportation and Communications hereby directs the National Telecommunications Commission to issue the necessary guidelines that will govern the relationship between program and content providers and local TV operators in line with the following policy directives.

"1. Program and/or content providers shall conduct their business in a manner that will not be in violation of the constitutional provision prohibiting monopoly, combinations in restraint of trade or unfair competition.

"2. Foreign program and/or content providers who are or intending to transact business with local CATV operators shall be required to have an in-country local agent.

"3. Any and all agreements between CATV and foreign and/or content providers shall contain a provision submitting any dispute to the jurisdiction of Philippine competent authorities.

"The NTC shall within 30 days from the effective date of this Circular promulgate the procedure, rules and regulations implementing the policies hereof and the appropriate sanctions in compliance thereof.

"This Circular shall take effect within 15 days after its publication in the Official Gazette or any newspaper of general circulation, provided further at least 3 certified copies thereof shall be filed with the UP Law Center."

LEANDRO R. MENDOZA
Secretary

The NTC has not yet promulgated the implementing regulations but it is hoped it will do so soon. Meantime, kudos to Secretary Mendoza for acting promptly on the citizens' valid complaint, and more power to him in enforcing the mandates of the Constitution for the protection of the CATV industry.

Coming home from jail

COMMENTARY

Melanie P. Ramos
Institute on Church and Social Issues

MOST of Jojo's clothes have been neatly packed inside his worn-out knapsack for weeks now. Eagerly anticipating his departure, he has written his brother saying that he is coming home very soon. Just a few more months and they will be reunited once again. At age 22, Jojo has been separated from his family for 17 years. No—he's not an OFW working somewhere in the Middle East, nor has he been away because he's studying abroad. He has been estranged from his family because he has been living in Alabang, Muntinlupa, not in that posh village where the rich stay, but in a small cell inside the heavily guarded walls of Camp Sampaguita—in the Bilibid prisons. Jojo has been in prison all this time.

There are many like Jojo who have spent most of their youth behind bars. Some of them have been "veterans" of prison life since age 15. They started living in detention centers or city jails even before they set foot in Bilibid. More than 100 of them are now incarcerated at Camp Sampaguita serving their sentences. The crimes of these juveniles range from acts of lasciviousness, robbery, rape to murder. While most people think that these young people are "hardcore criminals," a good number of them are not actually recidivists (those who go in and out of prison), but first time offenders. A single mistake has caused them their childhood and has introduced them to the harsh realities of prison life. The "experimentations" and gimmicks they have done in their youth have caught up with them and have led them to this dismal plight. While one could very well be flabbergasted by the extent of the crimes they have committed, one also needs to be cautioned against readily judging them. Most of these individuals have been misdirected in their youth—an aspect which does not necessarily justify their behavior, but in a way helps us understand the context they are in and aids us in determining how to prevent other children from becoming like them. While it is true that a good number of them come from poor families, poverty seems not to be the main issue why they commit heinous crimes. The more imperative factor is the quality of relationships they have formed in their youth and the strength of their family life.

While awaiting the termination of their sentences, these youth try to make most out of their situation by studying and joining in the penitentiary's various activities. Rudy, 19 years old and a native of Butuan City, is proud to have finished Grade 4 last April 2003. He promises to finish his studies even if it takes him a long time, so he can find a decent job once he is released from prison. He is proud to have learned how to read and write in Bilibid—a skill that even his parents were not able to teach him. Marlon, 21 years old, also shares that being in prison is not so bad. If he were not incarcerated, he would not have been able to study because his family does not have enough money to pay for his education. Life in prison is indeed hard. But young people like Marlon and Rudy still dare to dream despite their situation. They hope for a decent future and a second chance that was taken from them. While they dream of what lies ahead, they also have their apprehensions when they leave Bilibid. Even if Jojo is excited to leave Camp Sampaguita, he could not help but express his fear of being in the real world. "*Papaano kapag nasa laya na ako? Ano ang tingin nila sa akin? Papaano ko babaguhin ang pagtingin nila sa akin at mapatunayan ko sa kanilang nagbago na ako* (I wonder what will happen when I'm released from prison. How would people see me—think of me? How can I change the way they see me and show them that I have changed)?" Jojo asks. Marlon also shares his trepidation in going out of prison, "*Natatakot ako sa kanila, baka hindi nila ako matanggap* (I'm afraid of them, they might not accept me)."

The fears of these young people reflect the fears of inmates who have worked very hard to reform their lives. Prison life is not easy, but some of them feel that prison life is more bearable than being released into the outside world where they anticipate to be rejected and feared. For how many people would even consider hiring ex-convicts in their companies? How many people would trust individuals who were once behind bars? Many people are not ready to accept them and will readily judge them.

Jojo worries that he might not be given a second chance to show people that he has changed and has learned a lot from his ordeal. Going back to his family means adjusting to a new life full of uncertainties and problems. Still, he would brave all odds just to be with his family once again. Jojo prays that people would be more forgiving and kind to him. He has suffered much and would not want other young people to follow in his footsteps. "*Mahirap dito sa loob. Natutunan ko na mas mahalagang pakinggan ang magulang kaysa sa barkada* (Life in prison is hard. I have learned that it is better to listen to your parents rather than your friends)," says Jojo. He believes that it was his stubbornness that brought him to prison. If only he listened to his parents, he would not be in jail.

Jojo's homecoming is his second lease on life. He hopes to find a job and build a better future for himself and his family. How he would be able to achieve this would depend on how willing people would be to accept him despite his past. To change oneself is a difficult task. And because change is difficult, one needs all the help one can get to become a better person.

People like Jojo need our assistance. His future depends on us—how forgiving or unforgiving we will be, how open we are to give him a second chance to start a new life and make him believe once again that he is a good person and that he can change his life for the better.

Sad day for PCGG

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PALACE sources say that over the vigorous objection of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and Presidential Legal Adviser Avelino Cruz, the President went ahead and signed the appointment of Judge Norberto Geraldez to one of the vacancies in the Sandiganbayan. The announcement is expected any time now. Apparently politics won the day, which is sad because she has repeatedly disavowed politics after her Dec. 30 speech. GMA seems to be playing politics here.

* * *

Aside from the ranking palace officials, strong objections to Geraldez's appointment were registered by militant organizations such as Kilosbayan and Bantay Katarungan, and various media. Their objection stems from the fact that the judge is the husband of senior Accra law partner Regina Padilla Geraldez, whose law firm, founded by Sen. Edgardo Angara, had packaged all the coconut levy deals of Eduardo Cojuangco and his cronies. The latter face numerous still unresolved criminal and civil cases at the Sandiganbayan arising from the coco levy deals, where they are represented by the Accra law office. These cases appear to be coming to a head following a directive from the Supreme Court to the graft court to resolve the issue of who really owns the P100 billion coco levy funds.

* * *

Delicadeza dictates that Geraldez inhibit himself in those coco levy cases, but the question is, why appoint him to the Sandiganbayan in a clear conflict of interest. To be fair, he was the top recommendee of the Judicial and Bar Council, chaired by Chief Justice Hilario Davide, which indicates the tentacles of Accra; but Geraldez comes in with plenty of baggage, when there are many others who don't have such baggage. His salary will be paid by taxpayers for inhibiting himself continuously.

* * *

It seems to be a bleak future for the government's cases against Cojuangco and his cronies. For apart from Geraldez's appointment, PCGG chair Haydee Yorac is ill, having just undergone a long uterus surgery after a bout with hypertension. With Yorac's imminent replacement at PCGG it is conceivable that her disciples, the highly principled UP-trained young PCGG commissioners, would resign, especially given the present trend. In that event, the cases against the Marcoses, Cojuangco and their cronies, which have moved more vigorously under Yorac than at any other time since Jovito Salonga left the PCGG in 1987, may again sleep another 100 years.

* * *

I had mentioned earlier that Malaysian Defense Minister Najib Tun Abdul Razak, a recent Manila visitor, had given us the comforting assurance that his country would not condone any actions of the MILF outside the ambit of the RP Constitution. Razak, said to be the second in line to succeed Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, gave this assurance at the recent conference on regional security sponsored by the Center of Strategic Studies and the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Special Concerns. It is an indication of the good relations between Malaysia and RP cultivated assiduously by President Macapagal.

* * *

But what's also remarkable about Razak's speech is the way he quoted liberally from Filipino leaders; apparently many Malaysian leaders have this scholarly bent and RP studies occupy a high place in their minds (recall how fallen leader Anwar Ibrahim organized the lectures on Dr. Jose Rizal while still in power). Razak quoted the now famous phrases that President Macapagal has coined: "terrorism and poverty are twins" and "the best antidote to (them) is political freedom and economic opportunity." But never mind GMA as she is current, or Rizal as he is the national hero. But what surprises is how Razak pulls out President Sergio Osmeña, second President of the Commonwealth, whom he quotes: "Of what is freedom and sovereignty, and independence, if we cannot preserve and maintain them, and if we cannot bring security, happiness and prosperity to our people."

* * *

The conference on SEA security inevitably zeroed in on the worrisome state of relations between the Moro dissidents and the Christians, and what can be done to improve them. Razak earlier observed how Malaysia succeeded in fostering harmony within its three major racial groups by enabling them to mix with one another in a power-sharing concept. Fr. Romeo Intengan, Jesuit provincial and president of the Center for Strategic Studies, followed that up with his view that "we should make the Muslims feel at home in our country" and that countering Muslim fanaticism with Christian fanaticism is "fighting fire with gasoline." Intengan said toward this end he was happy about the cooperation displayed by Catholic, Protestant and Muslim leaders in fostering national unity.

While we citizens laud our religious leaders' cooperation and oneness in addressing the Mindanao problem, there's one group that could help very much: the Catholic educators. I recall watching a cultural presentation in Tacloban City's town plaza during a fiesta two years ago, where the pillage and plunder of Christian villages by Muslim invaders was portrayed in dance, showing how young Christian women were carried off somewhere. I remember thinking how this theme must be played out in countless town plazas, rendering near-impossible the breaking down of centuries-old barrier of suspicion and hatred (of course, no one portrays the pillage of Muslim communities by the Spanish and American conquistadors). This is where the schools could come in.

* * *

During his introduction of his Malaysian counterpart, Defense Chief Angelo Reyes engaged in light banter at the start, as he confessed that he envied Special Concerns Adviser Norberto Gonzales for having "one of the most exciting jobs in the Cabinet." Reyes quipped that with Gonzales' title, he could claim all areas as "special concern," and yet he could also say that one area is not his concern, so he won't go into it, and that's that.

A nervous debut on 'Debate'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"MY God, does anybody still watch this show?" exclaimed Bono Adaza as the hour hand crept past 11, and it looked like "Debate" last Thursday was going to go on the air past midnight.

"Well," I said, "you'd be surprised who watches 'Debate.'" When I travel out of town, for instance, and people recognize me, more often than not they say it's because they've seen me guesting as a panelist on "Debate." Very few actually recognize me as a columnist on this paper. The dialogue goes something like this:

Mystified MOP (member of the public): "Ma'am you look so familiar. I've seen you somewhere."

Me (flattered and trying hard to play humble): Ah, maybe it's because you've seen my picture in the INQUIRER."

MOP: "No..."

Me (ego deflated but valiantly carrying on): "Ah...maybe you've seen me on TV."

MOP: "Yes! That's why I recognized you! I saw you on 'Debate!'"

These "Debate" viewers range from sales clerks to university professors, students to commuters, bank tellers to fellow shoppers. Apparently, the universe of public affairs TV addicts willing to lose a night's sleep to watch a public issue resolved in an hour is wider than one would expect in a telenovela-obsessed nation.

So Bono need not have worried that he would be "performing" before a minuscule audience. Why, we even got a phoned-in reaction from televangelist Bro. Ely Soriano! (The real thing, ha, not Brod Pete.)

When I asked "Pareng" Oca Orbos which show in the "other" channel we would be competing with, he first launched into a litany of the shows that the rival station had put up against "Debate" only to be switched to another time slot when these failed to topple "Debate" from its perch. Currently, "Debate" goes head-to-head (provided it starts as scheduled) against "Val Abelgas Presents." But since the show is for only 30 minutes, the rest of the time its rival is the "700 Club," which used to end GMA-7's broadcasting day until it switched to ABS-CBN. "It's no longer the '700 Club,'" our floor director remarked cheekily. "It's now the '200 Club.'"

* * *

I WAS interested in the particulars of "Debate" because last Thursday I was there not just as a "*suki*" panelist, but as a stand-in for "Mareng" Winnie Monsod who was in New York for a meeting.

When a production assistant called me Monday morning to ask if I was willing to be a guest co-host, I wondered aloud if I could pull it off. "Please, we're sure you'll know what to do," he said. "You've been our guest so many times already. Besides, *alam naman namin na ka-puso na namin kayo* (we know you're already part of the family)!"

Well, come to think of it, I do have a right to feel part of the "Debate" family, having guested on its pilot episode and in many subsequent shows.

To this day, for instance, people, especially women, stop me in public to congratulate me for my appearance on "Debate" when former Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas appeared to repair his tarnished image in the wake of the death of his wife, Maria Teresa Carlson.

* * *

HOW I got to appear on that episode is a story in itself. I received the call at noon of the same day, with the PA apologetically explaining that many women's groups and NGOs they had contacted had eventually backed out when they found out that Fariñas was setting conditions about his appearance.

I called up Anna Leah Sarabia, whose Kalakasan had helped set up "Task Force Maria" in the wake of the former actresses' death, to inquire what they were objecting to. "He wants his children to be beside him on the opposite side," she said. "We (women's groups) will just end up looking like villains."

* * *

WHAT to do? If there wasn't anyone to speak for the side of women and for Maria, then Fariñas would have the time of his life framing Maria's tragedy from his self-serving point of view.

But if we faced off against Maria's children, who had after all just been orphaned of their mother, we would end up looking like heartless bitches.

So I called up "Debate" and said I was agreeing to guest on the show provided the Fariñas children were not among the studio audience (they showed up, but were kept out of camera range). "These children have just lost their mother and they shouldn't be made part of a public spectacle," I argued.

True enough, during the show, the former congressman tried frequently to bring his children into the show, succeeding once to have his oldest teenage daughter speak up. But I and the other panelists refused to take the bait.

And that's all I have to say about the "Fariñas affair" because he has sued me and other people who write for this paper—as well as a whole slew of TV journalists and women activists—for libel.

* * *

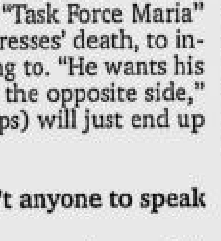
ANYWAY, I survived the ordeal of stepping into Mareng Winnie's proverbial huge shoes. In a post-mortem, my friends said I was much too "nice" to the panelists and should have been more feisty (a word Winnie hates, by the way).

When I told my cousins and siblings I was going to guest co-host on "Debate," one of them joked that "at last Pareng Oca can get a word in!" My sister-in-law Soc retorted: "That's what he thinks!"

I think Pareng Oca got much more than a word in, and I would like to publicly thank him for leading me gently by the hand (in a manner of speaking) through this stint. After the show, as the staff shook hands with me, they exclaimed that my hands were ice cold. Indeed, it was all I could do to hold on to my cue cards, so acute was my attack of nerves.

But there's always a first time, and this one proved more enjoyable than most debuts.

A bygone portrait



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

DEVASTATED during the liberation and further altered by development, Manila and the rest of the country are radically different from descriptions encountered in books. Actually as early as 1914 when the Americans had been here 16 years, Hubert Howe Bancroft writing "The New Pacific," was already referring to old sources for descriptions of the country. He quotes a Spanish pilot (author of "Anson's Voyage") writing during the first half of the 19th century who may or may not have been biased: "...the water that is found upon it is said to be the best in the world. It produces all the fruits of the warm climates, and abounds in a most excellent breed of horses, supposed to be carried thither from Spain. It is well seated for the Indian and Chinese trade, and the bay and port of Manila...is perhaps the most remarkable in the whole globe, the bay being a large circular basin near ten leagues in diameter."

The port referred to was not North Harbor but was in Cavite where the galleons were anchored before leaving for Acapulco. An 18th-century writer (no attribution) declared that these carried "spices, all sorts of Chinese silks and manufactures, particularly silk stockings, of which I have heard that no less than 50,000 pairs were the usual number shipped in each cargo; vast quantities of Indian stuffs, as calicoes and chints *(sic)*, which are much worn in America, together with other minuter articles, as goldsmith's work, which is principally wrought at the city of Manila itself..."

Bancroft declares that no sooner did Legaspi found Manila that it became "the most important city in the southeastern isles of Asia as well as of the coast of China." From Manila, communications were established with the Americas. With the galleon trade, silks and spices were gathered in Manila, and the city became the principal market for Indian commodities. With the silver brought back from Mexico, "Manila and her merchants grew exceedingly opulent."

Oddly enough Bancroft traces the settlement of Moslems (to be exact Malay Pirates from Borneo) in Mindanao only to the 16th century, roughly the same time as Magellan's arrival. They took possession of Sulu and Basilan and spread to Balabac, Mindanao and the southern part of Palawan. Their kris was of tempered steel and "more effective in battle than the sixteenth century weapons of the Spaniards."

During the first half of the 18th century the Philippines had 30 provinces with 627 towns and some 3.3 million inhabitants. There were 30,000 Chinese "and an unknown number of native savages." Manila, being the most developed, had a population of 150,000 composed of natives, Spaniards, creoles and *mestizos*.

Volcanic mountains in Luzon ensured soil that was rich and deep, "supporting great forests and fine pastures. Cotton, coffee, sugarcane, cacao, indigo, rice, tobacco, abaca or vegetable, silk, all kinds of timber, dye-woods, pepper, gums, cocoanuts, rattans and other products" were easily grown. On the shores are shells, pearls and nacre, or mother-of-pearl; the sea swarms with excellent fish; in the interior are all kinds of wild beasts and reptiles, from buffalo and deer to crocodiles and snakes."

The mountains had silver, copper and gold and the products of the valleys included "cigars, baskets, straw hats, pottery, matting cloth, silk, rope, and many other articles, besides ship-building, carriage-making and tanning leather." There were 30 varieties of rice cultivated as well as indigo and tobacco.

When the Americans arrived in Intramuros they found two palaces, one for the governor and another for the admiral of the fleet. "There were large mercantile houses, a Chinese bazaar, barracks, churches, cigar factory covering six acres and employing 10,000 women, stone bridge, suspension bridge, old fort of Santiago, mint, museum, arsenal, university, academy of arts, hospital, public gardens, cafés, convents, monasteries, theatres and other objects and places of interest."

Along the river were situated the best houses whose exteriors appeared plain but were decorated within with a profusion of Chinese and Japanese wares and gold, silver and silk ornamentation. They were built to withstand typhoons and earthquakes "with a gallery around (called volada) which may be closed with shutters having panels with mother-of-pearl panes, which admit the light but exclude the heat."

The author considered we had three seasons: cold, hot and wet. The cold which he says wasn't very cold extending from November to March, the hot continued to June and the last to October. The funny section of the book is when Bancroft says the friars established schools but since "a little learning is a dangerous thing" the natives then acquired ambition, "a desire to...take part in the government."

Here is Ramon Reyes Lala speaking before the Wellesley Club in 1899: "Although I believe we have a great future, I cannot disguise to myself the conviction that we are not yet ready for independence. I apprehend that, intoxicated with their newfound liberty, the Filipinos might perpetrate excesses that would prove fatal to the race." You think perhaps he spoke with a forked tongue?

Teaching philosophy

YOUNG BLOOD

Herdy L. Yumul

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

ALL right, my students are bright, as we boast of having one of the finest nursing programs in the country. Their training is rigid, and the selection process very tight. But, at the turn of the semester, I feared that my students would take my subject lightly. I took pains in urging them not to treat Philosophy as a "minor subject," for there must be some reason why it is a curriculum requirement.

After a month, my students submitted their phenomenological reflections. My heart broke when I discovered that many of them wanted to pursue something else, but were forced by their parents, who finance their studies, to take nursing instead. It is sad that our ailing economy kills the dreams of the young. Older people are infected with bitter pragmatism, and few of them are as supportive as the father in the PLDT commercial.

Our class had an engaging discussion on Martin Heidegger, who posits that when man confuses being with having, the origin of moods is located in external possessions: money, gadgets, or whatnot become the source of happiness; deprivations lead to feelings of sadness and frustration. In this case, the human being has identified himself with objects of care, and forgotten his own existence.

"At the moment, what essence do you find in your existence?" I asked them. It is not very difficult to figure out: e$$ence. It does not take a sociologist to understand why. Our government is a joke, our economy a disaster, and by the time my students go abroad, in 2007 at the earliest, Fernando Poe Jr. would have probably spent three years in Malacañang, and the peso would have dipped at over 80 to a dollar. No wonder that many professionals are now taking nursing—doctors, dentists, physical therapists, and, yes, lawyers. Some of them are my students, older than I am, and resigned to this nation's dim tomorrow.

Our school's thrust reads: Preparing for life through God-centered education and service. Here we anchored our discussion of Gustavo Gutierrez's Liberation Theology. Gutierrez proposes that what motivates Christians to participate in the liberation of the oppressed "is the conviction of the radical incompatibility of evangelical demands with an unjust and alienating society. They feel keenly that they cannot claim to be Christians without a commitment to liberation." The emphasis here is on *praxis*—action, for no self-respecting Christian can be a spectator to social unrest.

Many students seem to forget their fundamental mission. The line: "I want to be a nurse because I want to care for the sick and needy" we only hear of now in the question and answer portion of the "Search for Little Ms Philippines." Caring for the sick has been reduced to an incident to the quest for the good life. We do not need more nurses. We need more caring nurses.

My students showed an encouraging response. They pledged to offer their services in marginalized communities where medical practitioners are needed most. This they promised to do for at least a year when they earn their license. The pledge, of course, is not binding, and I cannot ask the foreign embassies to bar their visa applications if they don't comply. Such acts nonetheless are a glimmer of hope.

I know that it is difficult to speak with finality. Ate Hedy, my sister, held the same convictions when she was a young nurse teaching at a university in Laoag City.

Aware that many families have been destroyed because of overseas employment, she opted to stay, live a life of moderation and build a happy family. Now, Ate Hedy is in New Zealand, away from her husband and her 4-year-old daughter, Kaka, whose future she is fighting for.

I look at nurses who have left, not with judgmental eyes, but with compassion. There's Ate Mona and Weng in California, Auntie Elsie and Uncle Gerry in Hawaii, Ate Joy and Jemy in New Zealand, and other relatives I hold so dear, in more parts of the world. The Philippines is always in their minds, and they sent me nice presents last Christmas.

Many people say that I can afford to be idealistic only because I don't have children yet. The moment you raise your own family, they warned, you will abandon your youthful arrogance; philosophy cannot build you a home, it cannot send your children to decent schools.

Am I losing the crusade? I don't know, but when Kit, one of my students, fell in love with Friedrich Nietzsche, the feeling was ecstatic. Discussing the enigmatic German philosopher with his friends, even during night-outs, Kit's collection of Nietzsche's books puts to shame my own. Also, when I organized the Trinity Debate Society, most of those who joined were nursing and medical technology students. I learn a lot from these folks, and I grow with them. My friend Alona, a colleague in the faculty, reminds me to be thankful for having a job that allows us to earn a living while learning with amazing people.

There are a few bad times, though, such as when I caught one of my students reviewing for his anatomy class while I was delivering a lecture on Marx. This prompted me to ask: "What good does it do to you when you find the parietal bone, and lose your own self?" And the message got across.

I sure have my own moments of weakness, too. Such as when one of my students asked, "Sir, *kuntento ka na ba sa ganyan* (Are you contented with your situation now)?" "What do you mean?," I replied. "'*Yung ganyan, walang sariling bahay, padorm-dorm, walang kotse* (You live in a dormitory, not having your own house, your own car)," he clarified.

I am not asking my students to be exactly like Socrates, who loved to go to the marketplace to see the things he is happy without. Neither am I leading them to follow the footsteps of Diogenes, a cynic, who lived in a barrel, and owned nothing but a cloak, a bread bag and a stick, reasoning that in having very few possessions, his happiness won't be easy to steal. But, I urge my students to be steadfast in their search for meaning so that at the end of the day, they can look back with neither resentment nor regret. The way to meaning, of course, is not without a price. But it is the only way a truly existent man should take.

Now, I should stop evading the question "Sir, *kuntento ka na ba sa ganyan?*"

The answer I cannot tell with enough certainty. But one thing I am sure of: I just love to teach Philosophy, and I thank my students for the life I live now. I thank them for letting me wake up each morning, with a sweet smile on my face.

It is a business both daunting and rewarding to preach the gospels of Socrates, Nietzsche, Heidegger and Gutierrez, in a world facing the most difficult of times.

Herdy L. Yumul, 24, is a philosophy and human resource development graduate of San Beda. He teaches at Trinity College of Quezon City while doing graduate studies in sociology at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

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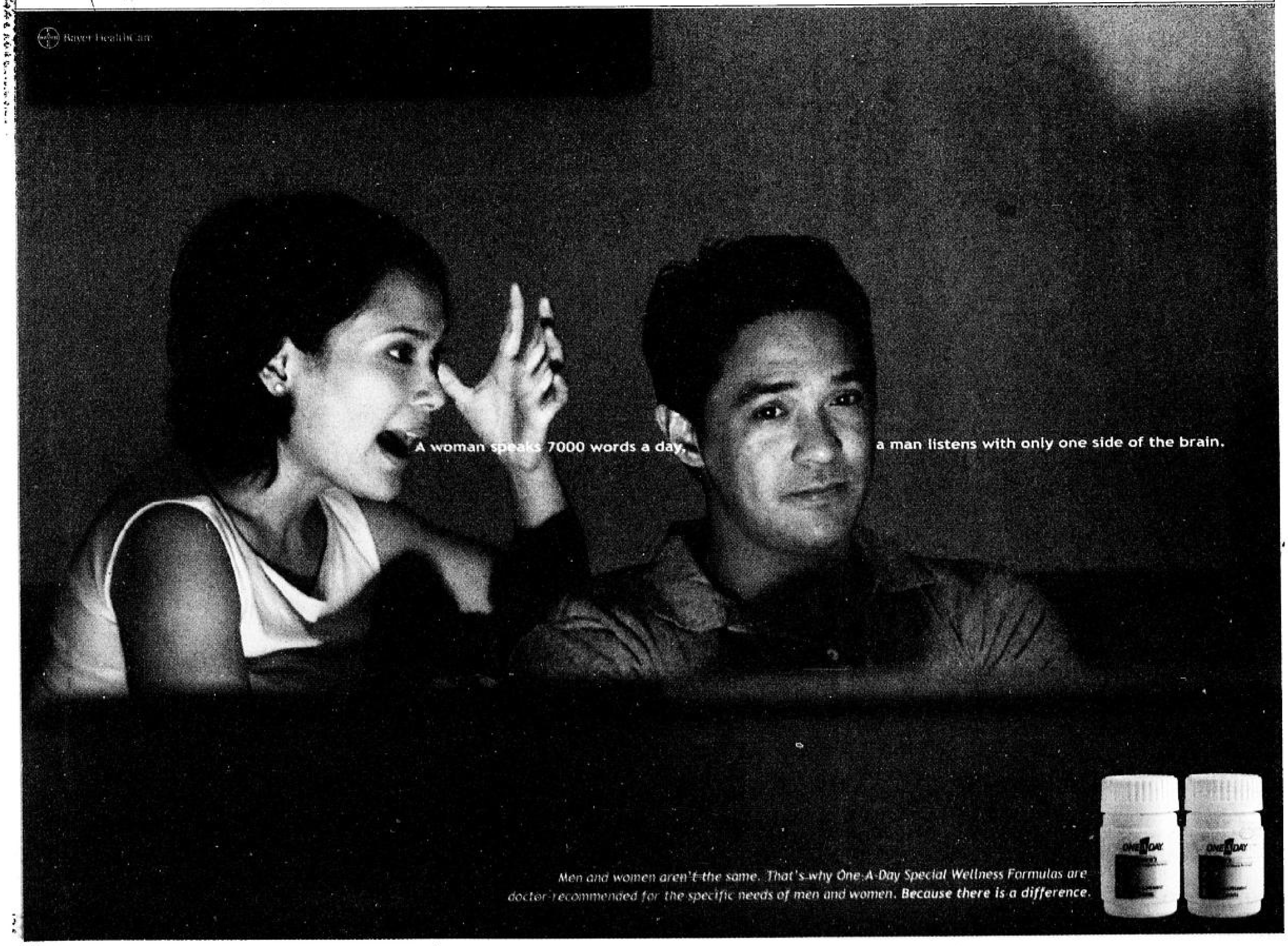
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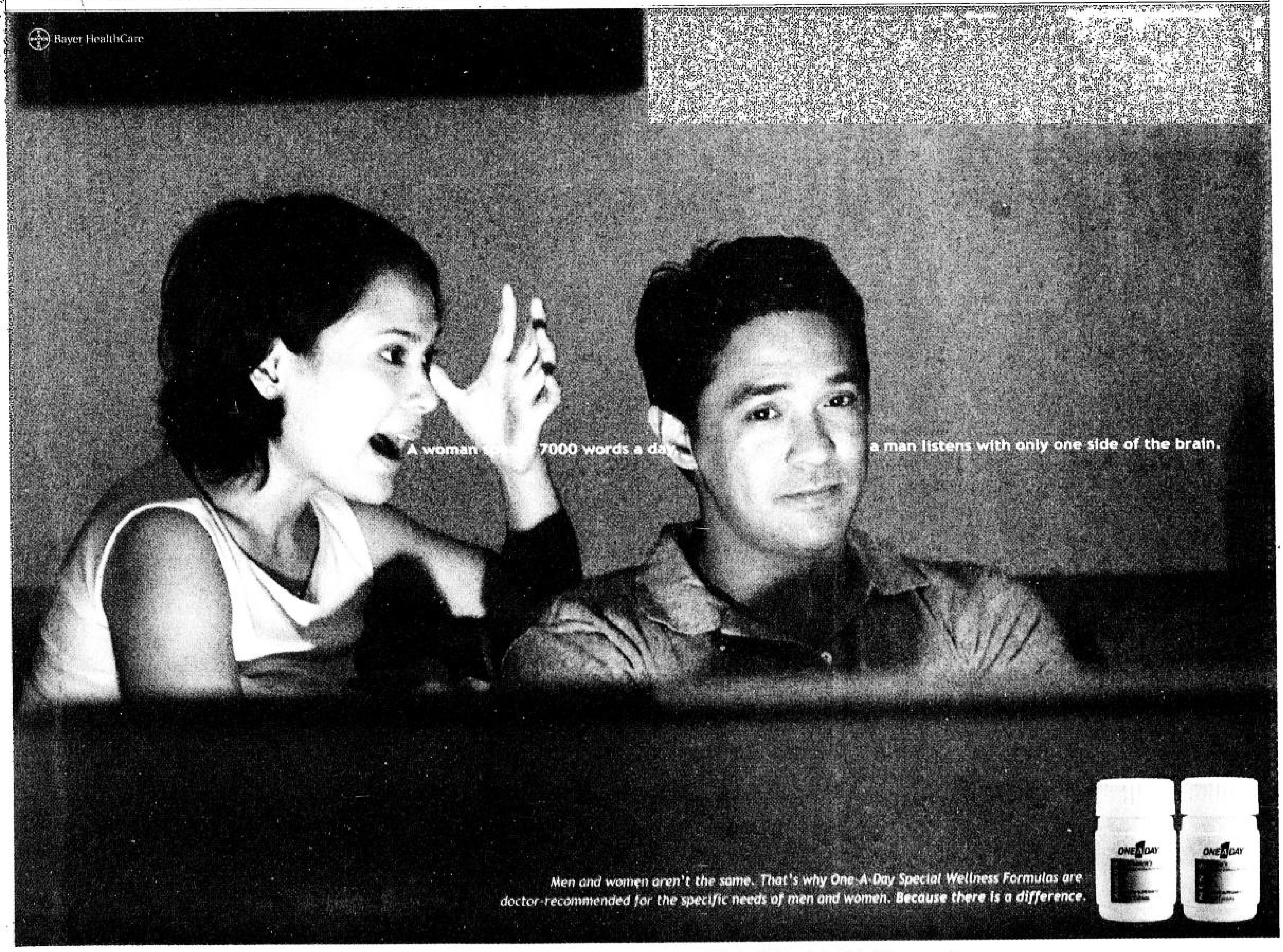

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ONE A DAY
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

India, Pakistan begin peace overtures

VAJPAYEE

NEW DELHI—Suggesting that talks with Pakistan may be about to resume, India's prime minister announced Friday that his country is restoring civil aviation links that were broken last year amid the threat of war, and will appoint a new ambassador.

"We are committed to the improvement of relations with Pakistan and we are willing to grasp every opportunity for doing so," Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee told Parliament.

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf hailed the fresh peace overture as "a new beginning," reports said yesterday.

In his first comments since Pakistan's Prime Minister Zafarullah Jamali made an ice-breaking telephone call to his Indian counterpart Vajpayee on Monday, Musharraf said he detected a new attitude from New Delhi following Vajpayee's olive branch offer of dialogue last month.

"We were consistently saying that we want talks, but it was India that was showing rigidity," state-run Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) quoted Musharraf telling London-based Urdu-language television channel ARY.

Pakistan had been urging comprehensive dialogue for three years, Musharraf said.

"Now, it appears that some change has come from their side," he said.

Vajpayee offered to sit down to talks with Pakistan during an April 17-18 tour of Kashmir, the disputed Muslim-majority Himalayan region at the core of 55 years of tensions between the South Asian giants.

Pakistan had called repeatedly for dialogue but India had always rejected talks until the cessation of alleged infiltration of anti-India Islamic rebels from Pakistan territory into Indian areas. New Delhi accuses Islamabad of backing the rebels, a charge denied by Islamabad.

Yesterday, Vajpayee told lawmakers that "It has been decided to appoint a high commissioner in Pakistan and to restore civil aviation links," and he gave positive indications about the prospects for talks with Pakistan.

"The house will be regularly informed about the talks with Pakistan. We will not hide anything," Vajpayee said. "But if the government is repeatedly asked to divulge what talks are going on, it will not help in the talks."

Vajpayee has not directly answered questions from Parliament members during the past week about whether he has dropped India's condition that no high-level talks would take place with Islamabad until infiltration into Indian territory by Pakistan-based militants has stopped.

Parliament members have asked whether or not the talk with Jamali was an exception to that policy.

On Friday, he only said, "We have repeatedly expressed the need to create a conducive atmosphere for a sustained dialogue, which necessarily requires an end to cross-border terrorism and the dismantling of its infrastructure."

He rejected any suggestion of outside mediation of the disputes—mainly conflicting claims over the Himalayan region of Kashmir—that have led the two nuclear-armed nations to three wars since they became independent from Britain in 1947.

"There are many people going around who want to mediate. What, why, it is not clear," Vajpayee said. "India feels that the issue with Pakistan is a bilateral issue and there is no place for a third party."

"This is a very good sign. I think it is a new beginning after the Agra summit," Musharraf said, referring to the July 2001 summit in the Indian city, the last time the two sides formally met.

The Pakistani president said he detected "a growing realization among the Indian leadership" that "meaningful" dialogue was the only way to ease tensions on the nuclear-ready subcontinent.

The hostile neighbors came close to a fourth war, which many feared would turn nuclear, after militants allegedly backed by Pakistan attacked the Indian parliament in December 2001. Fourteen people including the five gunmen were killed.

Kashmir, a scenic mountainous region straddling India and Pakistan, has been divided between them since partition in 1947. They fought wars in 1948 and 1965 over full control of the territory.

A ceasefire line became a de facto border known as the Line of Control in 1971. It splits the Pakistani-controlled northwest strip from the Indian-controlled southeast zone.

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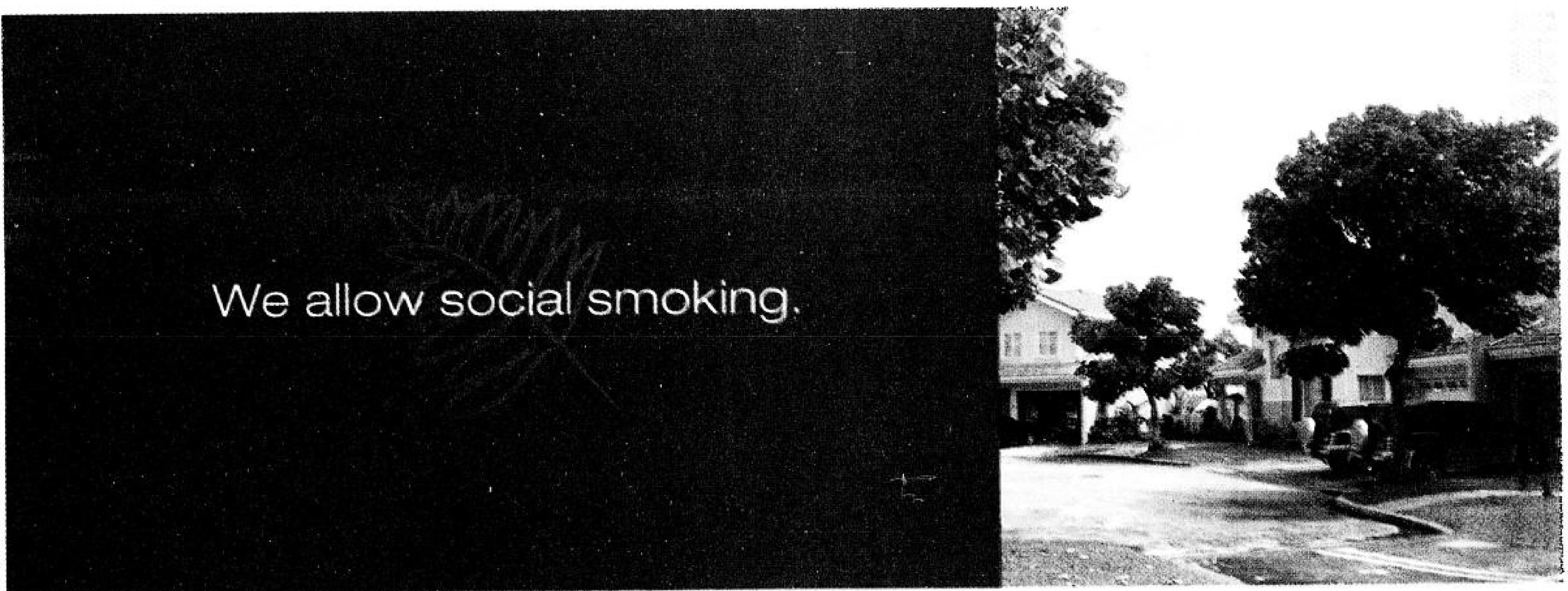

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'Help us,' plead some of 100 Turkey school kids trapped under quake rubble

CELTIKSUYU, Turkey—Rescuers were working through the night to dig out nearly 100 children trapped under the rubble of their school, reduced to ruins when an earthquake jolted eastern Turkey, killing over 80 people.

Desperate cries for help came from victims buried under twisted piles of concrete in the village of Celtiksuyu as weeping parents anxiously waited for rescuers to pull out the next stretcher.

"We can still hear some of them screaming 'Help us. Give us water' from underneath. It is heart-breaking," one rescuer said.

The quake, measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale, hit the eastern province of Bingol in the early hours of Thursday when most people were sleeping.

It was the deadliest since 1999 when two tremors killed 20,000 people and once again drew attention to shoddy building practices blamed by many for the extent of the damage.

"The number of those confirmed dead is approaching 100. The number of those injured is around 450. Rescue work is continuing, but we do not know what we will see under the rubble," Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan told reporters after a visit to the mainly-Kurdish province.

The crisis center dealing with the situation later revised the death toll to over 80, but details on the fatalities were scant.

NTV television reported that 79 children had been recovered from the rubble that was once a four-floor boarding school, where the bodies of around 15 of their classmates and one teacher had so far been dragged from the wreckage.

The Anatolia news agency said that rescuers had managed to get water to a group of trapped pupils, who were reported to be safe.

Many of the deaths occurred in Celtiksuyu, near the city of Bingol.

There was also extensive damage in Bingol city, where 10 multi-story buildings collapsed, killing up to 45 people, while remote outlying villages reported heavy damage, with electricity and phone lines down in many places.

In Celtiksuyu, dozens of rescuers and soldiers aided by sniffer dogs dug through the wreckage of the dormitory where children were still encased under tons of concrete hours after the quake.

As relatives of the victims poured into the area, security forces were forced to cordon off the area to allow medics to treat survivors.

Of the some 200 students staying at the school, 79 had so far been pulled out alive by early Friday. Many were saved by their steel bunk beds which held off some of the wreckage.

"I fell into a gap between the bunk bed and the wall. This is how I survived," 14-year-old Ersin Besbelli said from a makeshift bed moments after being rescued unscathed.

Amid mounting anger over the toll, Erdogan pledged to open an investigation into the company which built the boarding school. "Those who are responsible must be brought to justice. The related authorities will carry out the required investigations," he told reporters.

An angry Abdullah Gunal, father of one of the rescued children, said: "The stable that I built with my own hands did not collapse, but the school did."

Nuray Aydinoglu of the Istanbul seismological institute said proper enforcement of construction rules, tightened after the 1999 disasters, could have prevented some of the deaths.

"Unfortunately, the efficiency of engineers and construction companies that implement the projects has never been seriously taken up in Turkey," he told a press conference in Istanbul. *AFP*

A RELATIVE waits near the debris of a four-story primary school dormitory building in Celtiksuyu village, near the eastern Turkish city of Bingol May 2. More than 100 children were trapped under the dormitory building flattened by an earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale. REUTERS

2 Americans angry at Bush raise $1M for UN agency

UNITED NATIONS—Two American women, angry that US President George W. Bush blocked $34 million for the UN population agency over the abortion issue, decided to raise money for the agency themselves. On Thursday, they reached the $1 million mark.

Now, Jane Roberts, a retired teacher from California, and Lois Abraham, a lawyer from New Mexico, are taking their grassroots campaign to raise $34 million to Europe—the start of a worldwide effort to generate support for the global health and family planning programs. Already, more than 100,000 people have contributed, most in the United States.

And the women have already gotten a start toward their second million.

At Thursday's news conference, the United Nations Foundation started by media mogul Ted Turner announced that it would match donations with 25 cents to the dollar, for a total grant of $250,000.

Thoraya Obaid, executive director of the UN Population Fund known as UNFPA, said the first $1 million will be used to make pregnancy and childbirth safer for women, reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS, equip hospitals with essential supplies, and support adolescents and youths. Half the money will be used to prevent and treat obstetric fistula, a debilitating condition that results from obstructed labor, in six countries—Mali, Senegal, Nigeria, Benin, Malawi and Bangladesh.

Other funds will be used to provide information on modern contraceptives for adolescents and adults in Mongolia, train 1,000 health assistants in basic emergency obstetric care in Eritrea, provide voluntary counseling and testing kits for HIV/AIDS to health clinics in Rwanda, tackle the high teenage pregnancy rate in one of Bhutan's poorest districts and pay for 80 motorcycles for midwives in East Timor.

Obaid, a Saudi native, said Roberts and Abraham prove that "each of us, as individuals, can make a difference in this world."

"Instead of feeling powerless when the United States withdrew funding from UNFPA last year, you became powerful," she said. "The outpouring of support from ordinary American citizens for UNFPA ... shows that the American people support the right of women in all countries to have quality health care and to be able to plan their families." *AP*

Foreign intellectuals launch campaign to defend Cuba

HAVANA—More than 160 foreign artists and intellectuals, including Nobel Prize winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez, have come out in defense of Cuba even as many of their peers condemn recent repression on the Communist-run island, one of the campaigners said on Thursday.

Latin American Nobel laureates Garcia Marquez, Rigoberta Menchu, Aldolfo Perez Esquivel and South African writer Nadine Gordimer, also a Nobel prize winner, have signed a declaration of support, Mexican sociologist Pablo Gonzalez said.

US singer Harry Belafonte and US actor Danny Glover are also among the personalities who have signed the two-paragraph declaration "To the Conscience of the World" so far, Gonzalez announced to a May Day rally in Havana.

"A single power is inflicting grave damage to the norms of understanding, debate and mediation among countries," the declaration says, referring to the United States and the war in Iraq.

"At this very moment, a strong campaign of destabilization against a Latin American nation has been unleashed. The harassment against Cuba could serve as a pretext for an invasion," it continues.

President Fidel Castro's government has come under unprecedented international criticism from friends and foes after sentencing 75 dissidents to long prison terms last month, and executing three men who hijacked a ferry in a failed bid to reach the United States.

Havana has said the crackdown is in response to a US plot to topple the Castro government after more than four decades of failed efforts to do so.

Fierce criticism of Cuba's moves has come not only from Western government's such as the United States, but also from disillusioned foreign writers and artists, apparently sparking the pro-Cuba drive. *Reuters*

CHRISTIAN students study English at their school before they protest against a new national education regulation at a Christian high school in Jakarta May 2. AFP

Indonesian students reject religious teaching

JAKARTA—Indonesian student bodies representing four faiths urged the government on Friday to cancel a planned law on religious teaching in schools, saying it could trigger national disintegration.

A controversial article, expected to be endorsed by parliament as part of a new education bill later this month, will give "impetus to the anti-pluralism movement which could potentially trigger disintegration" in Indonesia, the college or university student groups said in a statement to mark National Education Day.

Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim-populated nation with some 90 percent of its 212 million people following Islam. But Islam is not the state religion and other faiths are respected.

"The government must not dominate regulations on religious teachings since it is a very private matter in this country's education system," said the statement, which was endorsed by Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and Hindu student bodies.

The article stipulates that all students, even in religion-based schools, have the right to receive instruction in their own faith.

Religion-based schools which are open to children from other faiths will in future have to provide religious teachers for those faiths.

Schools based on religions such as Catholicism or Islam have expressed reservations, saying the move would obscure their original mission.

"Our diversity as citizens of this country is threatened by this bill. Both the government and parliament must recognize that Indonesia is a country that was built on pluralism," said Andre Manusiwa, chair of the Indonesian Christian Student Movement.

Former president Abdurrahman Wahid was quoted by Friday's Jakarta Post as criticizing the bill on the grounds that the government should not meddle in religion.

Roy Janis, a leading legislator from the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, was quoted as saying that more time should be given to discuss the bill, which he said was not in line with the constitution.

The party is the largest in parliament. *AFP*

N. Korea linked to heroin shipment, Australia charges

SYDNEY—An official of the North Korean regime was aboard a state-owned ship accused of bringing 80 million dollars (US$50 million) worth of heroin to Australia, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer charged Friday.

Downer said he had summoned North Korea's ambassador to Australia, Chon Jae Hong, to a meeting with officials to be told of Canberra's concern about Pyongyang's possible role in trafficking drugs.

He also warned for the second day running that if there was proof that North Korea or its ruling political party were directly involved in drug trafficking, it would be a matter of "complete outrage."

Australia only recently re-established diplomatic relations with North Korea, becoming one of the few Western nations to do so.

Downer's statement followed the boarding and seizure of the freighter Pong Su on April 20 after a chase which began when it allegedly unloaded the heroin off southeastern Australia five days earlier.

Some 26 North Korean crew members of the Pong Su are in custody after being charged with helping to import 50 kg of pure heroin into Australia.

The ship, registered in the South Pacific island state of Tuvala, was owned by the ruling Korean Workers' Party, Downer said.

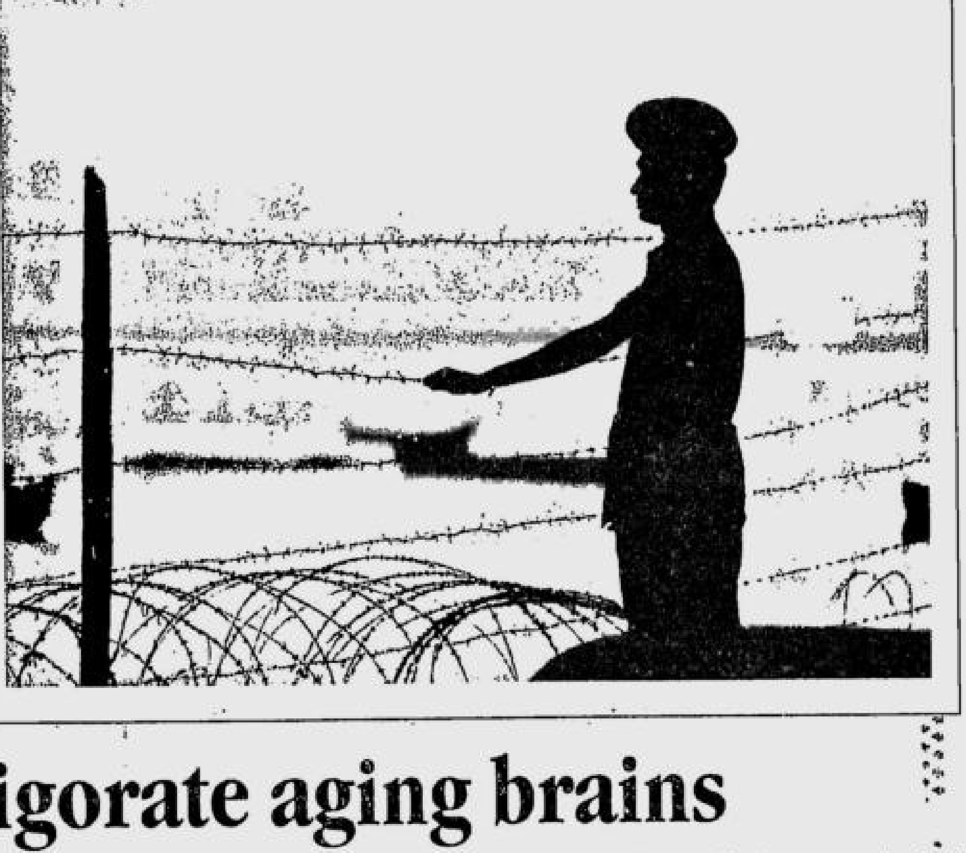
Intelligence agencies had told the government North Korean officials had been engaged in selling drugs to raise funds for the Stalinist nation, he said.

"We are concerned because the ship is Korean owned and it's a totalitarian state, so in effect it is government owned," he added.

"Whilst we can't prove that the government made the decision to send this ship and sell drugs into Australia to make money, we are concerned that instrumentalities of the government may have been involved in this. *AFP*

SRI LANKA ON EDGE

A Sri Lankan government soldier stands guard as the sun sets in the background in northern Jaffna peninsula, Sri Lanka, April 26. The Tamil Tiger rebels sudden suspension to their participation in peace talks has awakened fears that war may return to Sri Lanka's northern war zone where for more than 14 months the guns have been silent after the government and the rebels signed a Norwegian-brokered ceasefire. AP



Study says neurochemical may reinvigorate aging brains

WASHINGTON—Doses of a neurochemical called Gaba may reinvigorate aging brains, according to research involving very old monkeys.

In a study appearing Friday in the journal Science, researchers at the University of Utah report that Gaba appears to help aged Rhesus monkeys focus their vision and thinking processes by silencing the interfering static from other neurons in their brains.

Gaba screens out the stray nerve signals that may make thinking and seeing difficult in older brains, said Audie G. Leventhal, a professor at the University of Utah School of Medicine and first author of the study.

"It eliminates the garbage signals," he said.

Leventhal said that in old primates, both human and monkey, there is a decline in the levels of Gaba, a chemical that inhibits neuron signals in the brain. Without enough of that control, he said, the brain is distracted and overwhelmed by stray signals, in the same way the ear is overwhelmed when trying to hear a whisper at a rock concert.

"There, you wouldn't really hear anything," he said. "But if there is screaming in an empty room, then it is very easy to hear. That is sort of what Gaba does."

Without sufficient levels of Gaba to drown out all of the background signals, said Leventhal, "then all of your higher brain functions go bad."

Dr. Bernard W. Agranoff, a neurochemist and professor of psychiatry at the University of Michigan, said the study showing the effect of Gaba in aging brains is an important finding that should be researched further in humans.

"It doesn't automatically point toward a treatment, but it is an observation that needs to be followed up," said Agranoff, who was not involved in the research. "It is a quite interesting finding and the data looks very good."

In the study, Leventhal and his co-authors measured the electrical activity of neurons in specific parts of the brains of both young and old Rhesus monkeys as the animals were exposed to light patterns flashed on a computer screen. *AP*

Peace in Mideast . . .

From page A1

democracy can bring us peace, and only democracy can bring us progress," the President said.

Ms Macapagal's statement came even as fighting continues to rage between government forces and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels. *(Story on Page A2)*.

The MILF and the extremist Abu Sayyaf have been linked to al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiah terror networks.

President Macapagal said that "post-war Iraq has ceased to be a haven for terrorist hubs across continents."

She added that,"This combines with fortuitous events that are paving the way for a final resolution of the Palestinian issue, which lies at the root of Islamic militancy everywhere."

Israel, the main military ally of the US in the Middle East, continues to launch armed incursions into Palestine, which it has accused of harboring terrorists, who, in turn, had been regularly attacking Israel through suicide bombings.

In the same statement, the President also said that a team of officials and observers from the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) is set to arrive in the country next month to "strengthen avenues of cooperation in areas of mutual interest."

The OIC has been an active participant in efforts to resolve the Mindanao problem, starting from the years when the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) was the main secessionist group.

The 56-member OIC helped broker the peace agreement, which ended the MNLF's armed struggle in 1996.

Ms Macapagal also said that the OIC "continues to be the vanguard of the Islamic world's support for our efforts" to find peace in Mindanao.

She specifically cited the role played by the Committee of the Eight, where Libya, Malaysia and Indonesia are the more "active" participants.

"More and more commitments are pouring in for peace and development, the latest being that of Bahrain," President Macapagal said.

In fact, OIC representatives, who went this week on a three-day tour of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) to assess the progress of the peace agreement were satisfied with the implementation of the military and peace components.

ARMM Governor Parouk Hussin said OIC representatives have found that the implementation of the components, particularly the integration process of former rebels into the military and the police, was satisfactory.

Hussin said that Indonesian delegate Mohammad Abdulla informed him that the integration of MNLF fighters into the military and the police was going well.

"In fact, the last integration was done two days ago in Cotabato where around 291 MNLF integrees, the last batch, were absorbed into the 6th Infantry Division," Hussin told the INQUIRER.

Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko said former rebels awaiting integration could be fully absorbed into the military and the police by the second quarter of the year.

Bush: Victory in war that began 9/11

From page A1

killers. Nineteen months ago, I pledged that the terrorists would not escape the patient justice of the United States. And as of tonight, nearly one-half of al-Qaida's senior operatives have been captured or killed," he said.

"Al-Qaida is wounded, not destroyed," he said. "The war on terror is not over, yet it is not endless. We do not know the day of final victory, but we have seen the turning of the tide."

The US leader gave a broad warning to other regimes that might threaten US interests.

"Any outlaw regime that has ties to terrorist groups, and seeks or possesses weapons of mass destruction, is a grave danger to the civilized world, and will be confronted," he insisted.

"We are committed to freedom in Afghanistan, in Iraq, and in a peaceful Palestine. The advance of freedom is the surest strategy to undermine the appeal of terror," said the president.

FIRST US president to land on an aircraft carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln, President Bush declares the end of major combat in Iraq. The USS Abraham Lincoln returns to its naval base in San Diego, California today after war duty in the Gulf. AFP

Cautious reactions

Bush's dramatic announcement Friday that major combat in Iraq had ended was met abroad with caution, not cheers.

From New Zealand to Tokyo, concerns were voiced that while the fighting may be mostly over, the future of Iraq remains uncertain, Western alliances remain shaken and Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction remain unfound.

Some South Koreans expressed hope that Washington's successes on the battlefield in Iraq may serve as a lesson to their unpredictable and often belligerent neighbor to the north, which is also on Bush's short list of global troublemakers.

"North Korea is very much afraid. It knows Washington is focusing on it now that the war in Iraq is over," said a political analyst at the Seoul-based Sejong Institute.

More trouble seen

Others, however, saw more trouble ahead.

"The war will not be over until US troops withdraw from Iraq. Until then, US troops will face endless protests and struggles by the Iraqis," said Chung Yon-shik, a leader of anti-war protests.

"The war itself lacked moral justification," he said. "The Americans shouldn't be too happy over their victory; they should be ashamed."

There was no immediate comment from Australian Prime Minister John Howard, who has been perhaps Bush's staunchest supporter in the Asia-Pacific region despite a strong anti-war undercurrent among the Australian public.

But opposition Sen. Bob Brown, of the Greens Party, said the US-led mission in Iraq was a failure because it did not find any weapons of mass destruction.

"The conflict in Iraq is not over and Iraq has neither freedom nor democracy," Brown told Australian Associated Press. "No weapons of mass destruction have been discovered or destroyed. The mission is not over—it's a failure."

New Zealand has been vocally opposed to the war, and its leaders remained critical Friday.

Bush's speech was shown live by China's state broadcaster Chinese Central Television, but only on its channels directed at viewers outside China. Several people interviewed on the street in Beijing Friday morning said they hadn't seen it.

"We opposed the war originally and we still do," said Ji Bian, an office worker waiting for a bus along Beijing's main Changan Boulevard.

But Cao Beifang, a textile salesman, said he admired US resolve, a sentiment rarely aired in public in China.

"Someone has to lay down the law," he said. "That's the only way the world can work."

Rift with allies

In Japan, where the speech was broadcast live on the NHK public television network, concerns remain deep over the acrimony caused between the United States and some of its European allies over the decision to go to war.

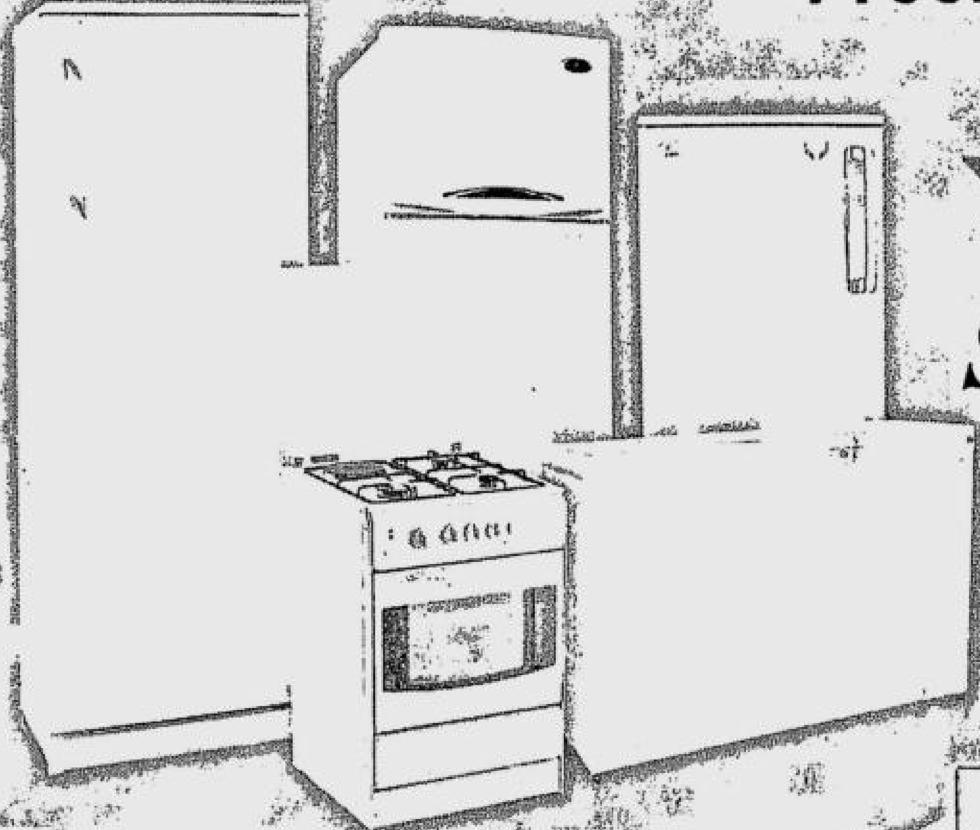
"Calm is gradually returning to Iraq, and discussion is focusing on how to rebuild the nation," the Asahi, a major daily, said in an editorial in its Friday morning edition.

"But the rift between the United States and France, Germany and Russia over the decision to begin the war remains wide."

In the world's most populous Muslim nation, Indonesia, anger at the United States was strong.

Amien Rais, head of Indonesia's highest law making body and leader of one of the nation's largest Muslim organizations, said Bush treated the Iraqis as "subhuman."

"Mr. Bush has destroyed to a great extent part of mankind and part of civilization," he added. "I'm beginning to lose my faith in American democracy, which I adored and admired." *AFP*



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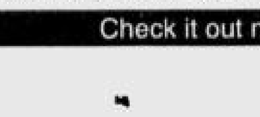

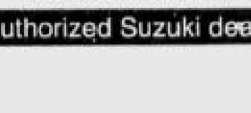

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Guingona hits GMA on gas funds' use

BAGUIO CITY—Government dividends from the $2-billion Malampaya gas-to-energy project off the coast of Palawan should be used to redeem the country's environmental programs instead of reducing the government's P200-million deficit, Vice President Teofisto Guingona said here Thursday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier had boasted about a P1 million-a-day revenue from the pipeline, which was principally financed by offshore investments, mainly from multinational oil company Shell.

But Guingona said the government had been banking on the Malampaya project to salvage the government's dwindling resources.

Guingona, who addressed the Youth for the Environment Summer Camp at Teachers Camp here, said the government had failed to draw private sector interest in rehabilitating or restoring damaged ecological areas in the country, "which multinational firms have exploited."

He said the government had shouldered 79 percent of the resources piped into the restoration of depleted forest lands, while the private sector poured in only 21 percent of the total rehabilitation capital.

The imbalance in priorities, he said, contributed to the reduction of the country's tree line from 3,672 forest lands covering 2.3 million hectares in the 1980s and 1990s, to only 858 forest lands covering 1.69 million hectares at the turn of the century.

The government had been able to restore or replenish only 27,000 hectares of forest land, he said.

Metro Manila's 1.8 million metric tons of pollution is a testament to the government's failure to save the country's forests, Guingona said.

He said Malacañang's only option is to tap the Malampaya reserves to re-finance vital reforestation programs using a sustainable ecology fund that would restore mined-out territories, damaged reefs and water bodies, and depleted forests.

But the government earns only a small fraction of the revenues being generated by Shell Philippines, he said.

The project contract states that 70 percent of the revenues should be plowed back to Malampaya's investors, Guingona said.

The firm operating Malampaya shares in the remaining 30 percent of revenues, while the government gets some P300,000 from the P1 million returns.

Guingona said Malacañang's controversial contracts with small-scale miners on Mt. Diwata should also be tapped to restore the mined-out sections of the Diwalwal gold rush area.

Horacio Ramos, chief of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, had patterned Diwalwal's joint venture arrangement last year from the partnership mining project in the suspended Acupan underground operations of Benguet Corp.

Like Mt. Diwalwal, the Benguet Corp. project leases out portions of the mine's underground tunnels to small-scale contractors for a share in their extractions. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Lacson seeks probe of woes on labor cases

BACOLOD CITY—Sen. Panfilo Lacson is initiating an inquiry into the complaints of some labor groups on the delay of thousands of cases pending before the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) nationwide.

Lacson said he would file on Monday a resolution calling for a Senate inquiry into the failure of the NLRC to swiftly resolve labor cases. House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla would initiate a similar move in the House of Representatives.

Lacson and Padilla were here on Thursday to attend the Labor Day rally of the Alliance of Labor for Reform (ALR) at the Bays Center in Bacolod.

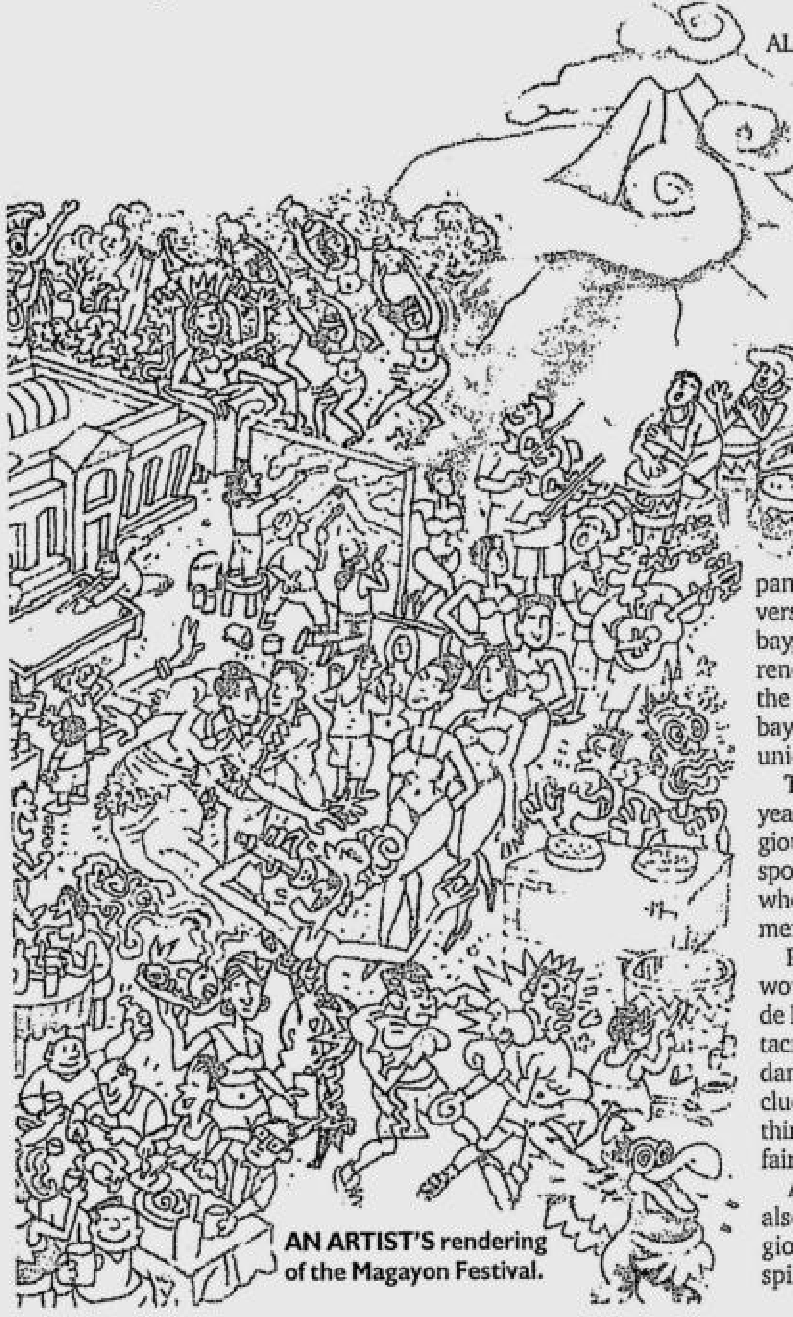
Speaking before a crowd of about 2,000, Lacson said graft and corruption were to blame for the backlog of the thousands of cases pending before the NLRC, "putting the lives and the future of the workers at stake."

He said he received reports that, in some cases, labor arbiters appeared to be working as lawyers of management.

"Graft and corruption in government is killing, not only the labor sector but the whole country as well," he added. "If the law serves the interest of the powerful, it becomes the enemy of the people."

The ALR is demanding the speedy resolution of labor cases involving alleged illegal dismissals, underpayments and terminations, which are pending before the NLRC. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Albay holds 5th Magayon festival



AN ARTIST'S rendering of the Magayon Festival.

ALBAY celebrates its biggest month-long event, the Magayon Festival, in May. It has been billed as a celebration of life that portrays a panorama of beautiful and diverse tourist attractions in Albay, focusing on the world-renowed Mayon Volcano, and the hospitable traits of the Albayanos and their rich and unique cultural heritage.

The festival, now on its fifth year, showcases cultural, religious, arts, trade, travel and sports events in a package of wholesome fun and entertainment suited for all ages.

Perfect for culture explorers would be the traditional Flores de Mayo and grand Santacruzan capped by a plaza dance. The line-up of events include the Lakbay Albay, the third Magayon art exhibit, book fair, cookfest, farmer's day.

A chili-eating contest was also organized, the Bicol region being known for its chili-spiced food.

Terror brings ₱125M in tourism revenue losses to S. Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—Southern Mindanao lost an estimated P125 million from cancellations of events and conventions due to the March 4 Davao International Airport and April 2 Sasa wharf bombings.

In a report to the President, Tourism Regional Director Sonya Garcia claimed that terrorism has proven to be a major constraint in tourism, adversely affecting travel.

She said pre-booked foreign and domestic tourists either canceled or postponed their travel plans to the region, with hotels, restaurants and airlines losing their projected revenues due to the cancellations.

The Department of Tourism reported that hotel occupancy for foreign travelers here from January to March has decreased by 4 percent from 13,717 last year to 13,095 this year. Domestic tourism, meanwhile, increased by 7 percent from 93,181 the previous year to 99,671 this year.

"We are really dependent on domestic tourism," she said during the 3rd National Caving Congress press conference on Tuesday.

The region also suffered a decrease of one percent in foreign visitors for the period of January to February from 10,038 last year to only 9,892 this year. Domestic tourism remained stable, she said, with an 8-percent increase from 74,617 last year to 80,855 for the same period this year.

Garcia said the cancellations they recorded for the month of April alone reached 12 for the conventions and four events postponed. The estimated participants for the reported canceled events numbered 7,500 persons.

A bulk of the losses are from airline ticket sales with P31.5 million with the assumption that 60 percent of the 7,500 people will purchase round-trip tickets worth P7,500 each. Losses from hotel bookings reached P92 million while other events, with an estimated P1.5 million in revenue, have been canceled.

Roger Layson, assistant tourism regional director, said the situation has been aggravated by the global fear brought about by the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

"The mood around the world now is bleak ... the tourism industry is badly hit," he said.

Underscoring the bleak scenario, Layson said the number of registered climbers to the Holy Week trek to Mt. Candalaga in Maragusan, Compostela Valley this year were only 76 persons, a more than 30-percent drop from the total registered 250 climbers last year. The reason cited for the drop was the peace and order situation. *Joel B. Escovilla and Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

SARS BRIEFS

Media responsibility urged

MALOLOS CITY—Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz called on the media in the province to be "extra careful" in writing reports about Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) to avoid creating panic among residents. De la Cruz issued the call after a local tabloid reported that a supposed SARS victim, an overseas Filipino worker from Taiwan, was recorded in Balagtas town. The report, which turned out to be false, created panic among residents in the town, De la Cruz said. Dr. Joy Gomez, provincial health officer, said the patient was not suffering from the SARS symptoms.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Airline defers operations

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—The Asiana Airlines has deferred its plan to operate a hub here pending the adoption of more stringent measures in dealing with the SARS virus, it was learned here. But Bienvenido Manga, general manager of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, said Asiana, South Korea's second largest flag-carrier, was "still really sure" about starting its international flights in Clark by June. Manga said Asiana operates 65 modern aircraft units. Its destinations include China and Hong Kong, where more SARS deaths and infections have been reported.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Quarantine for vessels

TABACO CITY—Dr. Mat Fortuno, quarantine officer of the Department of Health assigned at the Tabaco port, has strictly implemented the procedures for the anchorage of all foreign vessels here. He said a vessel should first stay for 14 days in quarantine at sea before it is allowed to dock in this port. "Even though, a vessel has complied with a 14-day quarantine, it will not be permitted to dock if one of its crewmen shows symptoms of SARS," Fortuno added. Tabaco port accommodates vessels from outside the country. Vessels coming from SARS-infected countries are not allowed to dock without undergoing quarantine.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Novena to drive away SARS

NAGA CITY—A Catholic church here has turned to prayer to ask for divine intercession to stop the spread of SARS, hasten the discovery of vaccine and strengthen the faith of victims and their families. The Basilica Minore, which housed the image of Bikol's Patroness Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia and Divino Rostro (Holy Face), started on Thursday a nine-day novena. Fr. Danilo Imperial, spokesperson of Basilica Minore, said beginning May 1 until May 9, a procession of the Divino Rostro in the tradition of the procession of the cross in times of calamities will be held in the Basilica grounds at 5:15 p.m. The novena follows at 5:30 p.m., then a Holy Mass at 5:45 p.m. On the ninth day, the penitential procession will be held around the city. He said the Basilica Minore community resorted to this because church records showed that the image had stopped the spread of fatal cholera in 1882. He said a certain Fray Pedro de la Torre, a Spanish friar and native of a village named Osa de la Vega, initiated two centuries ago the same penitential procession of Divino Rostro. Imperial said the records credited the penitential procession to have stopped the spread to this city of the fatal cholera epidemic that plagued the country then.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Dumaguete docs urge forming of SARS task force

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Health authorities are calling for the creation of a multi-sectoral task force in the province that will address concerns related to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Dr. Walden Ursus, chair of the infection control committee of the Silliman University Medical Center (SUMC), said one of the task force's functions would be to release information to avoid wrong reports that may cause public alarm.

He said health professionals should work together in dealing with the disease.

Health officer Dr. Ely Villapando said he would raise the suggestion to provincial officials as he agreed there was a need to form a task force on SARS.

But Villapando said the composition of the task force should not be limited to health workers. Non-government organizations (NGOs), he said, should be represented in the group.

He said he was also planning to reactivate the Philippine Health Association in Negros Oriental, which would be represented in the task force.

Villapando said his office formed a similar group in the province's district hospitals.

The province-run Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital organized a group of doctors, nurses and other health workers that would attend to SARS patients.

Anti-drug agency head assails 'addict' ads of phone firm

UNDERSECRETARY Efren Q. Fernandez, executive director of the Dangerous Drugs Board, has asked a highly successful cell phone network to rethink their "Addict Sa Smart" advertisements.

In a statement, he reminded the network to consider the unintended harm that may be caused by the ads, by conferring fashionable status on terms generally associated with drug abuse.

Fernandez first aired his dismay during the recent First Community Press Summit sponsored by the Publishers Association of the Philippines in Kalibo, Aklan, where he was guest speaker. "The mixed signals sent by these messages create confusion in the minds of our people, especially the (youth)," Fernandez said of the currently running cell phone ads. "They counter or dilute our efforts to dissuade people from using drugs."

He added that such use of drug language in mainstream advertising tends to "convey subliminal messages that drugs are not really bad."

Fernandez, a former police general, expressed his support for the public outcry against the ads.

More Boholanos dissatisfied with GMA, VP

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Boholanos are less satisfied with the performance both of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Teofisto Guingona although both continue to receive net positive ratings.

This was the result of the recent province-wide survey conducted by Bohol Poll 3, the Research Center of Holy Name University.

Results showed that the net performance rating of President Macapagal dropped from +50 last year to +35 this year while Guingona's net performance rating decreased from +31 to +19 this year.

A net positive rating is defined as more Boholanos being satisfied than dissatisfied.

The survey was conducted April 1-16 among 400 respondents, including 100 respondents from each of the three congressional districts and in Tagbilaran.

The survey sought to gather the opinion and sentiments of Boholanos on economic, political and social issues.

The respondents also gave the provincial government a positive rating in nearly all issues except in reducing graft and corruption, which got a rating of -18.

The respondents also gave the provincial government a +27 in protecting life and property and in providing support for the promotion of agriculture.

The provincial government also got a +22 in ensuring adequate drinking water, +21 in protecting the environment, +20 in providing for livelihood and employment opportunities and +16 both in promoting investments and promoting tourism.

On issues affecting Tagbilaran, city respondents said they were generally satisfied with efforts of the city government in promoting investments, providing livelihood and employment opportunities, protecting the environment, life and property, ensuring adequate supply of drinking water, and traffic management.

Like their counterparts surveyed for provincial issues, city residents said they were not satisfied with the city government's effort to reduce graft and corruption and gave it a -17 net satisfaction rating.

The survey revealed that five out of 10 adult Boholanos were working and that those working were satisfied with their primary work as shown by the +26 net satisfaction rating.

According to the survey, 74 percent of Boholano household heads considered their families poor against the 7 percent who did not consider their families poor. Respondents said P5,000 monthly is enough to surpass poverty.

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INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel : Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Ati woman helps save forest

By Carla P. Gomez
Bacolod City

SHE WAS born to the nomads who hunted for food in the forest and streams of the hinterlands of Negros Island. It was these nomads who taught her to value the trees for man's survival.

So it did not come as a surprise when Shirley Sombrador, an Ati, fought the local officials in Don Salvador Benedicto town, Negros Occidental who were accused of cutting down the trees in the town's forest reserve.

She did so in order to protect and save what remains of the Northern Negros Forest Reserve in Barangay Bagong Silang, Don Salvador Benedicto, about 42 kilometers east of Bacolod.

Her act of heroism was recognized when she was awarded the First Dove Bukod Tanging Filipina Awards this year, together with three others.

Shirley, 48, was touched by the recognition because it showed that there were people who believed in her cause and who cared for her.

"I thank all of those who have been praying for me and giving me encouragement," she said.

Shirley had volunteered to be a witness against Don Salvador Benedicto Mayor Cynthia de la Cruz and the mayor's husband Nehemias who are both accused of violating the Forestry Code of the Philippines.

Also charged with the couple were Councilor David Pontillano, Barangay Captain Vicente "Oti" Bacordo of Bagong Silang and 15 others, all of Don Salvador Benedicto.

The 19 respondents are accused of illegally cutting 130,548 cubic meters of trees worth P1,660,570 inside the forest reserve.

The respondents denied the allegations in the complaint, which is up for resolution before State Prosecutor Isagani Rabe.

The De la Cruz couple has asked the Regional Trial Court in Bacolod to inhibit Rabe from the case. But Rabe said the move was just a delaying tactic of the respondents.

The case has changed Shirley's life. For one, she is no longer free to move around and has to live in a safehouse.

But for Shirley, her sacrifice is nothing compared to the massive destruction of the forests, which will destroy the source of water in the fields that her fellow tribesmen till.

"Our lives depend on the trees that hold water that gives us life," she explained.

SHIRLEY Sombrador, in white, has volunteered to be a witness against a town mayor and 16 others accused of violating the Forestry Code of the Philippines. On her left, are Dove Awardees Susan Bayares of Cebu, and Esperanza Gonzales of Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Life in the forest

Shirley was born on March 17, 1955 in the hinterlands of Calatrava town, Negros Occidental. Her parents were Gaudencia of the Tribu Tumandok tribe and Felizardo Debolang, a mestizo Ati. She is the eldest of four children.

"We lived on the food my father hunted down in the forests while my mother fished in the streams and wove mats to sell," she recalled. "We were nomads who moved almost every six months to wherever there was food to catch in the forests."

Shirley said their houses were made of light materials and were easy to dismantle.

After she finished her elémentary education in Ayungon town, Negros Oriental, a teacher invited Shirley to live with her family.

Shirley sought permission from her parents. "I told my parents if I kept up with them and their nomadic life I would have no future," she said.

She explained that she wanted to have nice clothes and a permanent home like what she saw other kids had. "I had few clothes then and a home that moved at least twice a year," she recalled.

Although it pained her parents, Gaudencia and Felizardo had to let Shirley go.

Shirley lived with her teacher who sent her to a public secondary school in Bacolod. To show her gratitude, she helped with household chores.

But she later decided to work as housemaid for a family in Bacolod to help her family make ends meet.

Dreams

But Shirley believed there was more in store for her.

She moved to Manila and worked as housemaid for Col. Edmundo Dizon. At the same time, Shirley enrolled in an international correspondence school that allowed home study.

"I was an easy learner and wanted to learn more," Shirley said.

She said the colonel did not limit her job to housekeeping. He also taught her how to keep records at Camp Crame where he worked. By doing so, she learned accounting and bookkeeping.

When she returned to Negros Occidental, she learned that Dr. Hubert Reynolds of the Silliman University in Negros Oriental was teaching members of the tribes how to make lesson plans for nonformal education.

Shirley did not hesitate to sign up. She found herself teaching fellow tribesmen how to read, write and add.

In 1976, she met and fell in love with Rogelio Sombrador, a farmer with whom she later had four children.

Shirley recalled that as dowry, Rogelio's family gave them a hectare of land a carabao in Barangay Bago, Don Salvador Benedicto where they started their married life.

Soon, they were tilling 20 ha of land in several areas in Don Salvador Benedicto, she added.

Shirley has taken up several causes that endeared her to many Negrenses, especially members of indigenous peoples and women's groups that chose her to represent them in various groups.

Shirley has been elected board member of the National Confederation of Indigenous People of the Philippines, president of the Negros chapter of the Tribal Communities Associations of the Philippines and vice president of the Negros Occidental Federation of Tribal Communities.

She is also a member of the board of the Provincial Council of Women.

Shirley was able to lead a quiet life while carrying out her duties in these various organizations.

But last year, her life took a turn when she decided to carry a heavier cross to save the forests from wanton destruction.

Bold move

Shirley volunteered to be a witness on the case filed against officials of Don Salvador Benedicto.

As a result, she and her family have been living in a safehouse.

She was also beaten up allegedly by Bacordo for exposing him to the media on June 12 last year as one of those who cut down the trees in the forest reserve.

"He hit me in the mouth and stomach," she recalled.

Bacordo alleged that Shirley decided to testify against him to get even for taking over in keeping a land.

But Shirley merely brushed this aside.

"So many people are afraid of him. I thought it was about time I stood up (to) him and the people he works for, for the sake of the tribal people and the forests," she said.

Shirley said she decided to become a witness because it pained her to see the trees being cut down in Don Salvador Benedicto town.

"I saw how the forest was being destroyed and knew how it would affect the lives of people, so I decided to go to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to offer myself as a witness," she said.

Shirley pointed out that she had lived in the forests when she was growing up. So, she knows that cutting the trees will deplete the water supply and the home of many animals and birds.

"When we hunted then, the tribal people always knew to kill the male birds and animals not the females who were the source of reproduction," she said.

"If there is no water there will be a shortage of food, she points out. Many crops will die and natural herbs in the forest used as cures will disappear," she stressed.

Shirley has gone a long way. But the nomad has come back, this time to protect the forest, which was once her home.

Isah gets new lease on life

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

ISAH Mae Buni, the 5-year-old girl from Iloilo City with a hole in the heart, is the latest beneficiary of a new alternative treatment to a heart operation that has given her a new lease on life.

Isah underwent treatment for her congenital heart disease called Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA), at the Philippine General Hospital on April 15. The alternative non-surgical procedure scientifically called transcatheter closure of PDA offered less pain and faster recovery for the little girl.

Isah was discharged from the hospital in the afternoon of April 22. She and her mother are now back in Iloilo City after the little girl had her right eye fixed for partial blindness.

Isah, abandoned by her teenage biological mother, is the adopted daughter of teacher Rosario Buni and her carpenter-husband Jaime. The couple's meager financial resources had been wiped out since Isah was diagnosed with PDA at the age of 8 months.

Readers, who read about Isah's plight in the April 5 and 12 issues of the INQUIRER Visayas, gave donations to cover the needed amount for the procedure.

The entire transcatheter closure of Isah's PDA and hospitalization would reach 160,000 to P250,000, which includes the Amplatzer device that cost $1,500 and has been imported from the United States.

HAZEL P. VILLA, PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

ISAH plays around a day after undergoing non-surgical procedure.

But a Manila executive gave a P95,000 check to the PGH for the Amplatzer device and Isah's medications. The owner of a lending institution added P50,000 to pay off hospital bills.

The two doctors who performed the procedure also gave their services with a "significant discount." They were US-trained interventional pediatric cardiologists Dr. Jonas Del Rosario, clinical associate professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine; and Dr. Charles Cuaso, assistant professor at the University of Santo Tomas College of Medicine.

Cardio fellows, Doctors Shelah Salaya and Leah Arceo, and anesthesiologist Dr. Grace Herbosa were also part of the team that performed the procedure on Isah around 1:35 p.m of April 15. It was over by 2:40 p.m

In an e-mail to the [illegible], Cuaso explained that PDA was a blood vessel that should have closed shortly after birth.

"If this blood vessel is significantly larger in size, it may cause heart enlargement, 'flooding' of the lungs leading to pulmonary hypertension and even heart failure. This blood vessel has to be 'closed' to avoid these problems," he added.

Del Rosario said the transcatheter closure of PDA was relatively safe and equally effective like surgery, that would only leave a tiny scar in the groin.

He explained that there are two ways to fix a PDA. One is through heart surgery called PDA transection wherein the blood vessel is cut and both ends are sewn to render it non-patent. This is made through a long incision on the side of the chest (thoracotomy).

The alternative treatment is transcatheter closure of PDA that closes the hole by blocking or plugging it.

Transcatheter closure of PDA was introduced to the Philippines only in 2001. It uses a special device called the Amplatzer that will serve as a plug to close the hole in the heart.

So far, 33 patients have benefited from this technique that is currently being performed in the cardiac catherization laboratory of major medical centers in Manila.

Del Rosario explained that the Amplatzer was implanted using special heart catheters that were navigated to Isah's heart using the blood vessel from the groin.

"Many patients could not avail of transcatheter closure because they (had not been) informed of its availability," said Del Rosario.

"There are many children suffering from PDA. Unfortunately, many of them cannot afford the cost of the procedure. Thus, even if we have the capabilities to treat these kids, we are limited mainly because of lack of funds," said Del Rosario.

Those who wish to get in touch with Mrs. Buni may text her at 09203427945.

Forgetting history

BREAKAWAY

Ivan Suansing

SHOWING little sense of history, organizers of the "Kadaugan sa Mactan (Victory in Mactan)" reenacted on Sunday the historic battle of Mactan, the first-ever triumph of Filipinos over a colonial force.

Of all people, they picked Ilocos Rep. Imee Marcos, the late dictator's daughter, to essay the role of Bulakna, Lapu-Lapu's wife, parodying what the Cebuano hero and his warriors had accomplished.

Lapu-Lapu, who fought valiantly to repel Spanish invaders, must have been kicking in his grave as Ms Marcos, as his wife, stole the limelight from the lead character by just being there. The Marcoses were worse than the Spaniards for they oppressed their own people, and stole much more.

It's easy to see why Ms Marcos would volunteer to play the part earlier rejected by a popular bombshell. She desperately needs positive media mileage to deodorize public perception of her.

Lately, she has been all over TV, radio and newspapers. Her political ambitions are clearly drawn on her once-again-smiling face, one of the faces that once haunted, still haunt, the victims of the Marcoses' ruthless martial rule regime.

That Lapu-Lapu City officials, some of whom must have been fantasizing about the famous Marcos ill-gotten wealth, obliged her was a crying shame. What about Edsa 1? What about people power? Or does anyone remember at all?

It's ironic that while teaching the youth lessons of ancient history, they would overlook a more recent, compelling one. People forget rather quickly, and plunderers have a way of reinventing themselves to regain status and power without giving anything back.

***

EVIL SPELL? A Cebu City prosecutor was thrown out of the Ruben Ecleo Jr. parricide case when, allegedly under an evil spell, he told the judge in open court he had no need for several pieces of evidence police had painstakingly collected to nail the cult leader.

Assistant Cebu City Prosecutor Tolomeo Dinoy himself reportedly could not understand why on earth he made the declaration that clearly turned the tide for the god of Dinagat and defied all logic known to mortals.

Because of Dinoy's statement, the judge ruled that the pieces of evidence no longer formed part of the prosecution's exhibits. They included a used black plastic garbage bag in which Alona Bacolod-Ecleo was supposedly stuffed after her murder in January last year; a doormat with bloodstains, a white telephone cord, a blue bed sheet with blood stains, and a torn underwear.

Dinoy's sudden withdrawal of the premarked exhibits has spawned rumors about Ecleo's supernatural powers. Those magical powers, which work only when no one is looking, apparently turned the fiscal into an overnight defense lawyer without him realizing it.

Could these be the same spell cast by Ecleo on his jailers who then became instant cult supporters? Top jail officials were sacked after they were charged with giving Ecleo special favors, including a female companion, but strangely, instead of fretting they were reportedly seen laughing all the way to the bank.

***

HYSTERIA. "This is an outbreak of hysteria," rued Dr. Juanito Zuasula, epidemiologist of the Department of Health (DOH-7) as he asked the Cebuanos to keep calm amid the SARS scare.

Early on, funeral parlor attendants refused to touch the body of a former immigration official, a suspected SARS patient who died of "complications from diabetes and tuberculosis."

Health officials insist that the patient, 64, did not die of SARS, but the public knows that's an empty claim. A SARS patient's death is usually blamed on respiratory diseases like TB. But without laboratory equipment to confirm or disprove the presence of the coronavirus, nobody can be sure.

We hope and pray the scourge is not upon us, but then we also know it could already be here. The scary part is government health officials like Zuasula can only guess and try to boost public confidence.

Will the customs chief be sacked?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

RICE smuggling, President Macapagal-Arroyo's pet peeve, continues at the Bureau of Customs.

This writer stumbled upon a rice shipment at the Batangas Port where the government was defrauded of at least P16 million in taxes and duties.

And what do you know? It was Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo who signed the release papers for the shipment!

* * *

THE shipment arrived at the Sta. Clara Port in Batangas City midnight of Jan. 31, 2003, a Friday.

The rice shipment was immediately disgorged from MV Sang Thai Radium that came from Bangkok.

My customs sources said rice smugglers usually have their ships arrive at the port midnight of Friday. This way, customs personnel won't be at the port to check on the exact quantity of the cargo since there's no office the following day, a weekend.

* * *

THE rice shipment that landed in Batangas City Jan. 31 was declared to be worth $160,000. Its true worth, customs sources said, was $800,000.

Based on the declared value, the taxes and duties paid for the shipment was P4 million.

If the true worth of the shipment were the basis, the importer would have paid at least P21 million in taxes and duties.

* * *

ALL rice and sugar importations should be cleared with the Office of the Customs Commissioner. The appraisal of the value and the release of the shipment are to be signed by the customs commissioner.

The appraisal of the value of the Jan. 31 rice shipment was at $80 per metric ton, which was ridiculously low for a premium double-polished rice, customs sources said.

The actual value of the premium rice shipment was $200 per metric ton. The importer should have paid P21 million for the shipment.

The government lost P16 million from that shipment alone.

Commissioner Bernardo either doesn't know that his subordinates are running circles around him or he's part of the smuggling syndicate.

* * *

THAT Jan. 31 rice shipment was followed by three more shipments that also landed at the Batangas port.

Imagine how much money the government lost on those shipments.

Mr. Bernardo, if you're not part of the syndicate, please wake up!

* * *

MY sources told me that Bernardo is planning to run again for congressman in Mandaluyong.

He ran for Congress in the 2001 election but lost to Neptali Gonzales Jr.

Are Bernardo's subordinates at the customs gathering campaign funds for him?

* * *

I WAS in Cebu City two months ago on a weekend vacation.

While waiting for a friend at the lobby of the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, I saw Bernardo's close aide talking with some people also at the lobby.

When my friend arrived, I asked him discreetly if he recognized the persons that Bernardo's close aide was talking with. My friend told me they were known rice smugglers.

No wonder rice smuggling goes on unabated at the Cebu port!

* * *

I HEARD from the grapevine the President plans to replace Commissioner Bernardo, an outsider, with a career customs official.

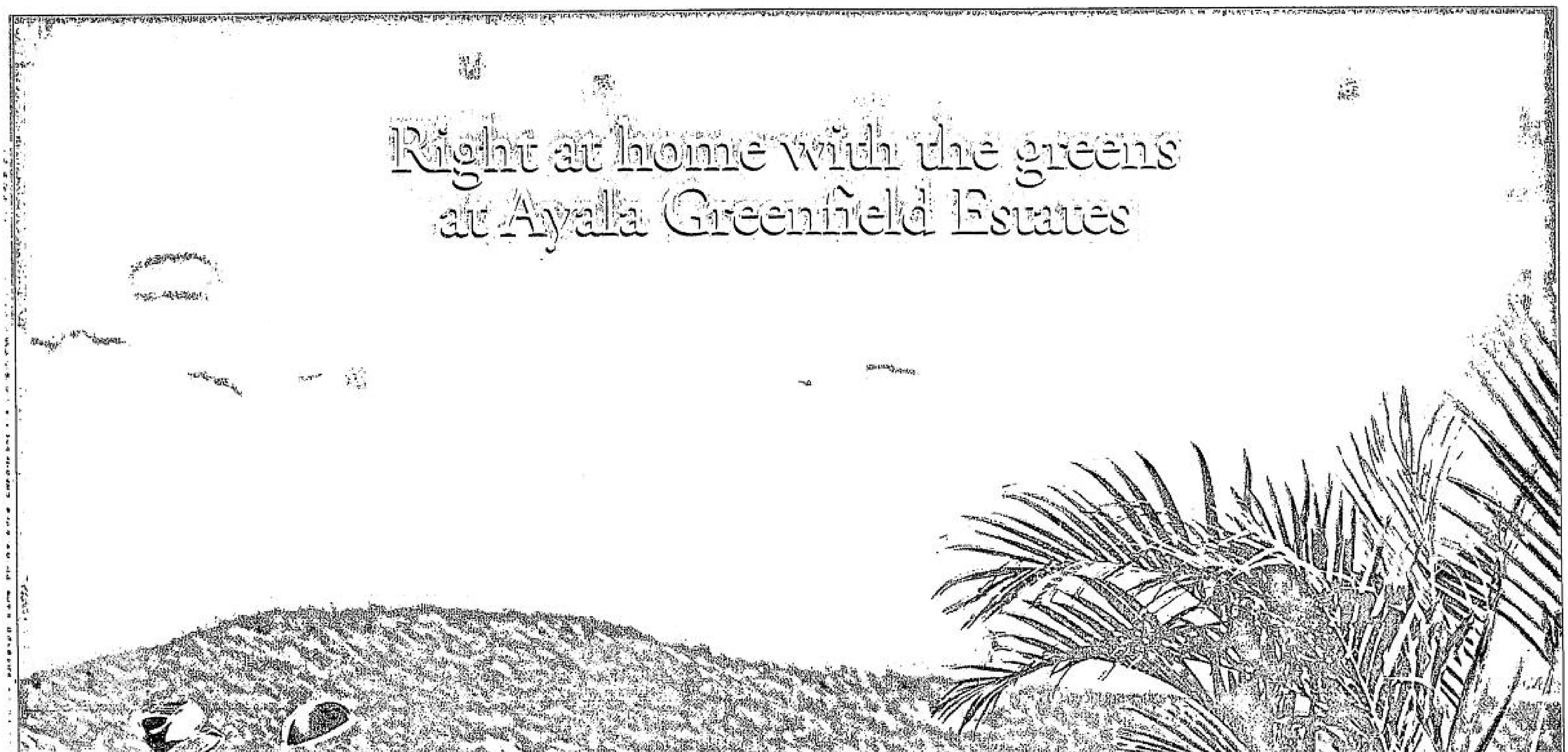
Two names are being floated as Bernardo's replacements, those of George Jereos, deputy customs commissioner for assessment, and Collector Celso Templo of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport customs office.

I heard that Templo has the upper hand. He is the same guy who offered to resign from the service after getting a tongue-lashing from the President for low collection at the NAIA port. The President did not accept his resignation.

Templo won GMA's admiration because of his *delicadeza*.

In the search for a customs commissioner, the position should seek the person and not the other way around. People who aspire to become customs commissioner are suspect.

Templo doesn't aspire for the No. 1 customs post.



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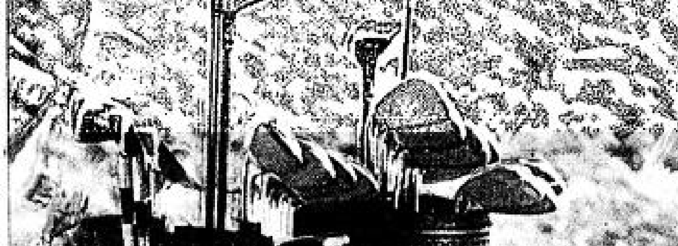

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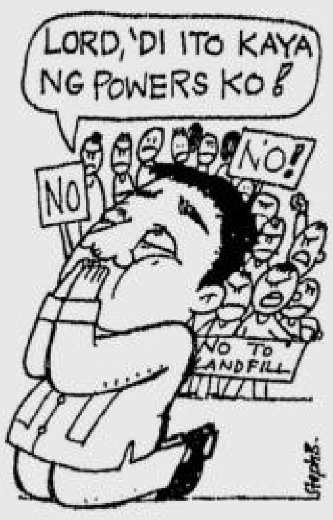
BF seeks 'divine help' for landfill


LORD, 'DI ITO KAYA NG POWERS KO!
NO
NO!
NO TO LANDFILL
Steph.S.

By Leila B. Salaverria

STILL unwilling to give up his dream of building a landfill in Quezon, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando is now seeking religious intercession to achieve his plan.

Fernando said that he wants to have an audience with the Catholic leadership of the Southern Luzon province to ask for help in intensifying his information drive about the MMDA's proposed 2,000-hectare sanitary landfill facility, which has been met with opposition by the residents and local officials.

He pointed out that having the help of the Catholic leaders is important because they are "very active" in the community. He added that he still hopes to change the minds of Quezon residents about the project.

Fernando also said that he still hopes to convince the residents of the benefits of his project by promising them jobs when recycling factories are set up near the landfill.

MANILA TO HELP IN SARS DRIVE

Price manipulators watched

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday said the city government will help the Department of Trade and Industry monitor and prosecute drug stores, pharmacies and other firms that take advantage of the SARS scare by illegally raising prices of face masks, vitamins and antiseptics.

The mayor urged customers of such firms to report unjust price hikes to his office or the city's business promotions and development office.

He said those found to be unjustly increasing prices of face masks, vitamins, antiseptics and other SARS-preventing medical equipment would be stripped of their licenses to operate and prosecuted for illegal trade pratices.

Atienza also instructed barangay authorities to make their own price monitoring and report any undue adjustments to the Department of Trade and Industry or his office.

The other day, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas conducted a surprise inspection on Bambang Street in Sta. Cruz and found four medical equipment stores and pharmacies selling "expensive" face masks.

Bambang is only a few blocks away from the health department's main office.

The secretary found that masks that cost P50 to P70 before the SARS outbreak were now priced at P400 to P500.

Roxas also got angry when the owners of the shops could not show proof when the face masks were bought. The owners also blamed their suppliers for the high prices.

HOW TO GET TO SLH OR RITM

YOU CAN refer persons whom you suspect to have contracted the SARS virus to either the San Lazaro Hospital or the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine. Here's how to get there:

The **San Lazaro Hospital** is located on Rizal Avenue between Tayuman and Quiricada Streets in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

For commuters, San Lazaro is easily accessible by Light Rail Transit, which has a station on Tayuman. Jeepneys coming from or going to Manila destinations, and Caloocan and Pasay cities also pass through Rizal Avenue. Motorists from the eastern side of the metropolis can take major routes such as C.M. Recto Avenue, A.H. Lacson Street and Blumentritt Street, which all lead to Rizal Avenue.

The **Research Institute for Tropical Medicine** is located at the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa. To get there, one can take a Tamaraw FX at the Alabang terminal and commercial complex. The van takes passengers to RITM. Fare is P10.

You can also reach RITM through the South Luzon Tollways. If you're coming from the Manila-Makati area, take the Filinvest exit immediately after you pass along the Alabang viaduct. From the tollgate, drive along Civic Drive until you reach RITM. *By Jerome Aning and Christian Esguerra*

Drug hubs in Metro identified

By TJ Burgonio

FIVE AREAS in Metro Manila have been identified by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) as drug trading centers in the metropolis, where small-time pushers buy their supply of shabu.

These areas are in Quiapo, Manila; Culiat, Quezon City; Maharlika Village and Ususan in Taguig; and Hermosa in Tondo, Manila.

Undersecretary Anselmo Avenido, PDEA director general, has described these places as the "Divisoria of illegal drugs," owing to the brisk trade in illegal substances that could be purchased in small quantities.

"Our people make arrests in these areas almost everyday," he told the INQUIRER on Tuesday.

Nash Pangadapun, secretary general of Maradeka, an umbrella organization of Muslim groups advocating peace and democracy, confirmed the PDEA's disclosure and said it was "nothing new."

"Such a situation continues to thrive because the drug lords in these communities get protection from personnel of the PNP (Philippine National Police)," he said in a phone interview.

Pangadapun said illicit drugs from China are dumped in Muslim communities and used as transshipment points to Mindanao.

METROBRIEFS

Careless cop

ROOKIE policeman Vladimir Binayug, 28, shot and seriously wounded Myleth Velasquez, 30, and her 6-year-old daughter, when his 12-gauge shotgun accidentally went off inside the Caloocan Police Community Precinct 9 on Wednesday. Binayug could not explain how the gun went off, but police said he was apparently careless in handling the firearm. The victims suffered gunshot wounds in the legs, police said. Binayug was arrested and stripped of his badge and firearm. Officer on case P02 Julian Chavez said the victims were sitting on a makeshift bench beside the precinct at 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday when Binayug arrived to pick up his shotgun inside the precinct's kitchen. *Tina Santos*

Reluctant witnesses

RELUCTANT witnesses are hampering the investigation of the death of Vincent Pimentel, the son of Makati second district councilor Astolfo Pimentel, said P02 Ricky Tan. Only one witness has surfaced so far to describe to police the suspect who slit the throat of the Pimentel, 38, on Mockingbird Street in Barangay Rizal on Wednesday night. The witness described the suspect as clean-cut, of medium build, and about 5-foot-5 tall. But the witness had not seen his face. *Leila Salaverria and Jamie Alarcon*

Dead seaman

SEAMAN 1st Class Rolando Panapanaan will no longer be able to board his ship. Panapanaan, 33, a member of the Philippine Navy, was shot to death by SPO4 Bernardo Avelino, who is detailed at the Traffic Management Group in Camp Crame, last Thursday, police said. Witnesses told police that Avelino and Panapanaan were arguing and shouting at each other in front of a sari-sari store on Dahlia Street, Ma. Luisa Subdivision in Camarin, Caloocan when the suspect drew his .45 pistol and shot the unarmed victim twice at close range. Police are hunting down the suspect, who escaped after the killing. *Tina Santos*

Fake goods seized

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents have seized P1 million worth of fake Lacoste and Louis Vuitton bags and other articles during a raid in Divisoria last week. NBI Director General Reynaldo Wycoco said they raided six stalls occupied by four shops at the second floor of the New Divisoria Mall along Tabora Street in San Nicolas district and seized the fake goods. These include ladies bags, eyeglasses, coin purses, watch cases, fake Lacoste shirts and Louis Vuitton bags. Wycoco said the counsel of La Chemise S. A and Louis Vuitton Malletier filed complaints against some shops in the mall selling and distributing the fake goods. *Philip Tubeza*

2003 TOYM awards

THE Philippine Jaycees, organizers of The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awards, has set the criteria for this year's recipients of the prestigious award as announced during the formal launching of the TOYM Search recently held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. Rafael Dizon, TOYM 2003 Search National Chairman, said the main criteria will be service to the community and to the nation plus outstanding leadership and excellence in his/her field of endeavor. Nomination forms are now available from all Jaycee chapters nationwide and from the JCP national headquarters at 14 Don A. Roces Avenue, Quezon City, TV. Nos. 3737907-09: Fax No. 3742495: Website www.toym.org and E-mail: info@toym.org.com.

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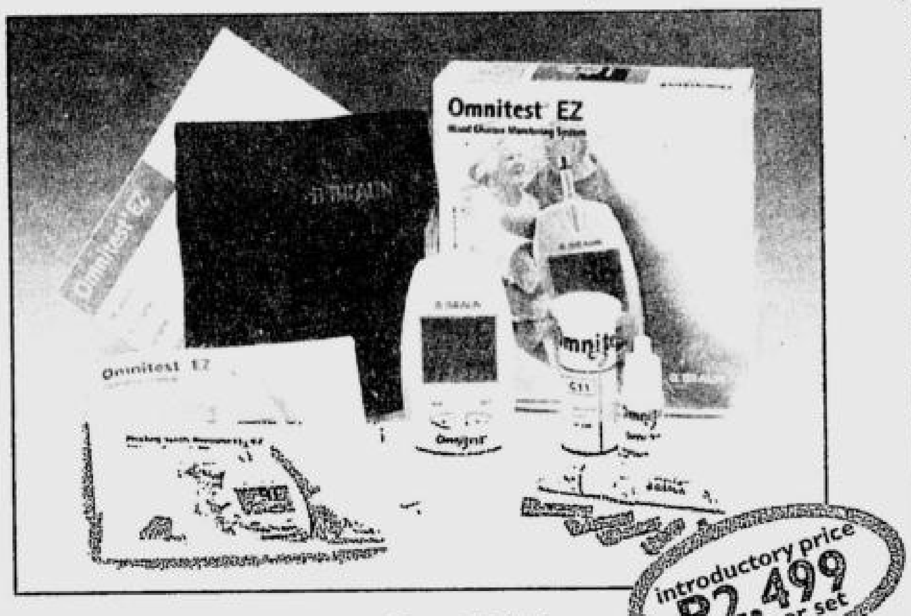

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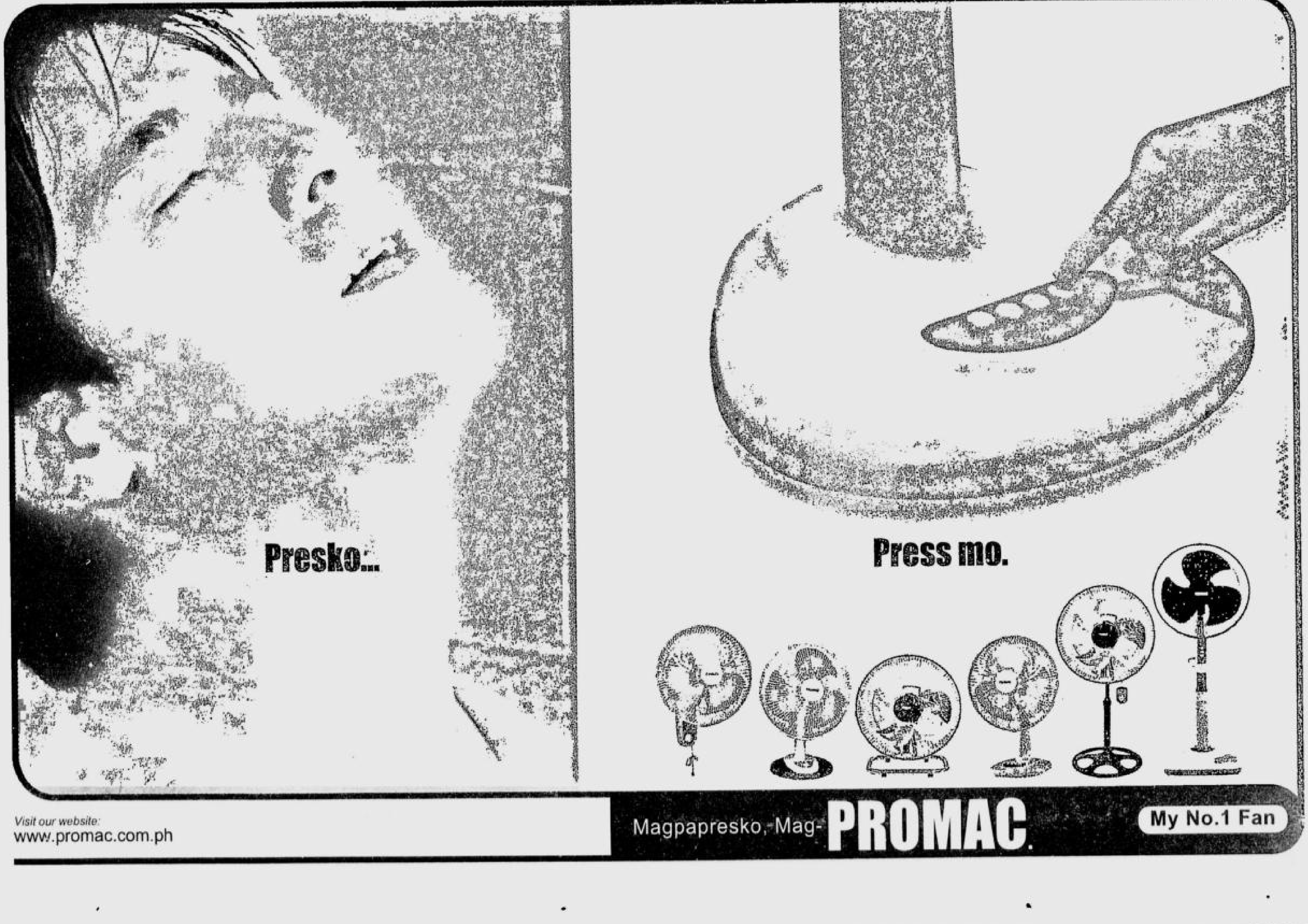

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Cops' turn to air gripes

By Philip Tubeza

AFTER the Labor Day protests, Manila policemen yesterday took their turn to air their gripes about their plight, particularly about their long-delayed meritorious promotion for their defense of Malacañang during the so-called Edsa Tres.

The Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association Inc. contested a Philippine National Police policy prohibiting policemen, who had received their regular promotion within the year, from getting their "meritorious promotion notwithstanding their rendition of exemplary service during the siege."

This PNP policy will adversely affect hundreds of lawmen who defended Malacañang from the violent assault of supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada on May 1, 2002, said SPO2 Antonio Emmanuel, MFBAI first vice-president.

He said that in the traffic unit alone, 80 policemen would not get their promotion.

Many Manila policemen have been complaining for the last two years about the delay in their meritorious promotion.

MFBAI officers learned about the new policy from Director Avelino Razon, former Manila police chief and now PNP Director for Human Resources and Doctrine Development. PNP Chief Hermogenes Ebdane also confirmed the policy to MFBAI.

But the Brotherhood said that since the one-rank·promotion of Mendiola defenders is a meritorious promotion, "no other requirement/condition may be imposed (on) the subject PNP officers."

Emmanuel said they have not received a copy of the new policy, adding that they were only informed about it verbally.

He insisted that it was unfair that the policemen who guarded Mendiola the other day will not get the reward they deserve.

LATE SPORTS

Thunder trample Hotdogs

WILLIE Miller took it upon himself to halt Red Bull's slip in the PBA Samsung All-Filipino Cup.

Showing the form that made him last year's MVP, the 5-foot-11 Miller poured in 30 points last night as the Thunder repeated over the Purefoods Hotdogs, 105-86, and tightened their hold of the lead at the Philsports Arena.

The Thunder improved to an 11-3 record, rebounding from back-to-back losses to the Talk 'N Text Phonepals and the FedEx Express, respectively.

The Hotdogs, who also bowed to the Thunder (98-90) in their first meeting, dropped to 5-9 and are fighting for life in the 10-team field.

Veteran Nelson Asaytono, Anton Villoria, Junthy Valenzuela and Davonn Harp provided backup firepower for Miller as they also scored in twin digits.

FedEx rode on the hot hands of Vergel Meneses to down Ginebra, 85-81, in the second game and rise to 7-6. Ginebra dropped to 4-10.

Roy Luarca

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SPORTS

Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Torres stuns Bulauitan in long jump; other RP athletes shine

TORRES soars to victory in the women's long jump. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

By Marc Anthony Reyes

A STRONG bet as RP's new long jump queen emerged yesterday after Marestella Torres of Mindoro Occidental bucked an aching back to best long-time national mainstay Lerma Bulauitan for the gold in the Milo National Open track and field championships at the Rizal track oval.

Torres, 22, who said she was bothered by a recurring lower back injury, cleared 6.30 meters on her third attempt to practically step out of Bulauitan's shadow.

Torres' gold-winning leap was still way off Elma Muros' 6.56m national record but was good enough to keep the 27-year-old Bulauitan at bay.

Bulauitan, explaining she was herself nursing an injury in the upper right thigh, registered 6.11m. She said she was happy enough with her performance.

"I'm setting my sights on the Southeast Asian Games," said Torres, who is eyeing her first SEA Games stint in December. She won the bronze medal during last year's Asian championships in Sri Lanka.

"Considering that I'm hurting, I'm happy with my performance," said Bulauitan, the 2001 Southeast Asian Games silver medalist.

Torres said she could have done better if not for her injury, which she hopes would fully heal in time for the SEA Games tryouts.

Kuala Lumpur SEAG gold winner John Lozada also snatched a gold medal by topping the men's 800 meters with a time of 1 minute, 51.99 seconds, besting Rommel Ragudo of University of Baguio and Jun Ino of Ateneo.

Lozada failed to surpass the 1:47.77 national record he set during the Asian Grand Prix last year, but his time was way ahead of Ragudo's 1:55.13 and Ino's 1:55.93.

Fellow national team member Geraldyn Amandoron threw the spear to 43.27m to defeat Narcisa Atienza for the women's javelin gold.

Philippine Army's Domingo Manata clocked 53.02 seconds to capture the men's 400m, the event which earned him a bronze medal in last year's Grand Prix held here.

Rhea-Ann Barlena of the Philippine Navy joined the ranks of gold medal winners when

TORRES/ A20

Bata Reyes to Hall of Fame

WORLD POOL sensation Efren 'Bata' received the biggest honor of his career when he was inducted yesterday into the Billiards Congress of America (BCA) Hall of Fame.

"Efren Reyes was the leading figure of the Philippine (billiards) invasion of the 1980s and 1990s," the Colorado-based BCA said in its website.

Considered the governing body of pool in the United States, the BCA even described Reyes as the best 9-ball player in the world.

Last year, Reyes won four titles, including the $50,000 Challenge of Champions in Uncasville, Connecticut.

He also topped the money list with a total haul of $126,200 (roughly P7 million).

Reyes began his campaign this year on a high note, winning the $15,000 Mid-Atlantic 9-Ball Championship in Chesapeake, Virginia.

"I am very happy and honored, but the honor is not mine alone. I share it with my countrymen who have always supported me," said Reyes.

Billiards Digest magazine publisher Mike Panozzo relayed Reyes' induction through Eddie "Champagne" Kelly, 64, to Aristeo G. Puyat, president of Puyat Sports.

REYES

The Hall of Fame ceremony will be held on July 12 in Las Vegas.

Unfortunately, Reyes may have to skip the affair as it coincides with the opening of the World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales which he won in 1999.

Reyes first made his mark in the United States when he won the Houston Red's Open and the Sands Regency 9-Ball Championship in 1985, using the name "Cesar Morales."

"I used that name because no one would play against me if they knew I was Efren Reyes," said Reyes in Tagalog.

Another Filipino, Ronnie Alcano, shared the spotlight with Reyes when he was picked 2002 Rookie of the Year by Azbilliards.com, the leading billiards website in the US.

In his first 12 months of play, Alcano has pocketed $33,000 and won five of nine championship appearances in the Joss NE Tour event.

Alcano, 39, started playing pool when he was 12 years old, but he only decided to take the game seriously in 1993.

"I played both pool and basketball. When I was 19, I sat down and thought about my life and decided that there was no money in basketball so I started taking pool seriously," said Alcano, who also posted top seven finishes in the Peninsula 9-Ball Open, US Open, Viking Tour National Championship and Ten Ball Challenge at Trump Marina, where he finished ahead of Reyes, Earl Strickland and Django Bustamante.

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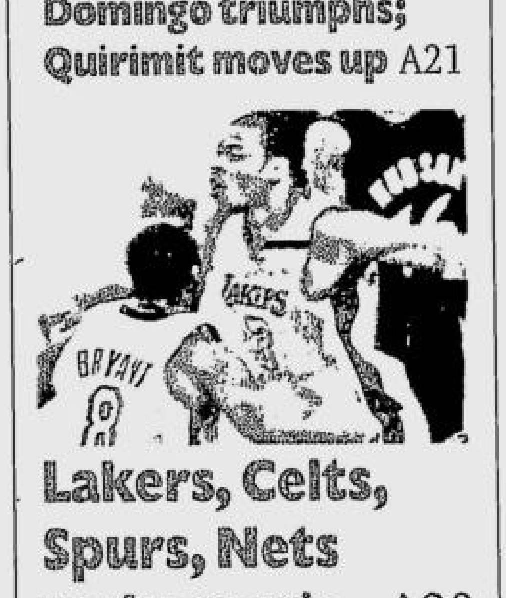
Domingo triumphs; Quirimit moves up A21



Lakers, Celts, Spurs, Nets make semis A20

Lanao Palaro reset May 18-25 A25

Rosales 3 shots down A21

New drug test for Gins' Crisano

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association yesterday gave Alex Crisano the benefit of the doubt and agreed to re-test the Barangay Ginebra slotman for traces of banned substance.

But the re-take will use the same urine specimen which yielded positive results for shabu/ecstasy that had caused Crisano to be suspended indefinitely.

Jimwell Torion was also told of his right to protest but the Batang Red Bull star decided to admit his mistake, something PBA Commissioner Noli Eala said "is a mitigating circumstance" when the league eveluates his case.

PBA technical chief Perry Martinez, who is also in charge of the league's anti-drug policy, said the punishment still stays until the player is proven innocent in the second testing.

According to PBA rules, a player found positive for drugs is given seven days to contest the findings. The league will then conduct a re-testing using the same procedure on the same specimen.

Crisano vehemently denied on Thursday he had taken any illegal substance.

He claimed the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory could have mistaken food supplements he had taken for the alleged banned substance in his urine sample.

"We don't want to deny him his right to contest it," Martinez told the Inquirer. "But we are confident that the whole procedure is fool-proof."

Martinez added that the anti-drug measure was conducted in supervision of the Department of Health by officials from the Commissioner's Office and league doctor, Ben Salud.

"We have full trust and confidence on the integrity of the whole process," added Martinez, who said he had seen several positive results in initial testing done in the PBA office which eventually turned out to be not illegal drugs.

Crisano maintained that the substance found in his sample were traces of supplements he was taking to reduce weight.

But Martinez remained firm that the finding was confirmed inside the crime laboratory of the Philippine National Police, where all positive results are submitted for confirmation.

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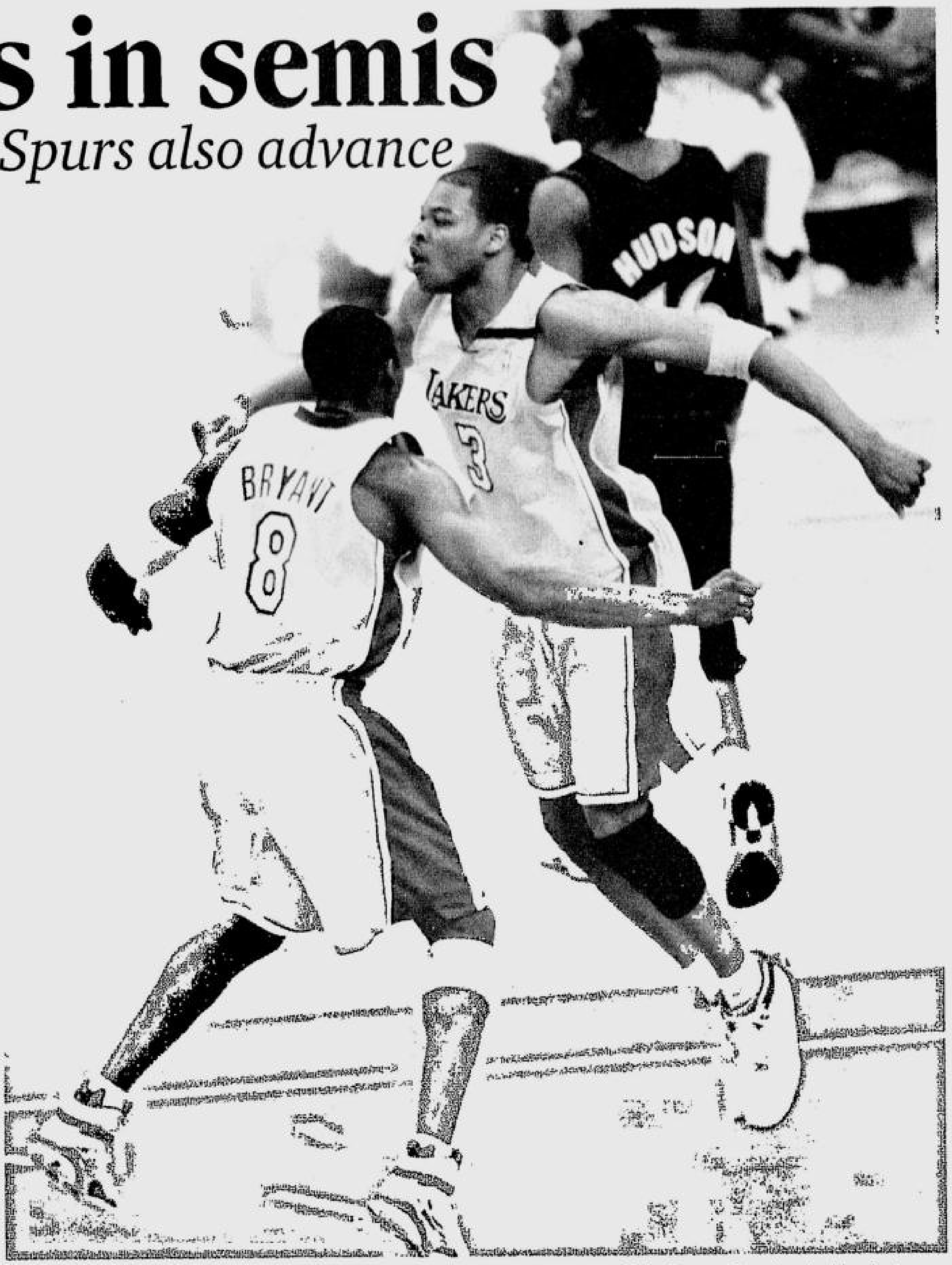
Lakers in semis

Celtics, Nets, Spurs also advance



LOS ANGELES Lakers forward Devean George jumps into the arms of teammate Kobe Bryant after slam dunking for two points against the Timberwolves. The Lakers won, 101-85, to win the best-of-seven series four games to two. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES—Kobe Bryant scored 14 of his 31 points in the first six minutes of the fourth quarter Thursday, and Shaquille O'Neal had 24 points, 17 rebounds and nine assists as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 101-85 to move to the semifinals.

The three-time defending champion Lakers have won 13 straight playoff series under Phil Jackson, and Jackson-coached teams have won an NBA record 25 consecutive series.

Derek Fisher scored 16 points, Devean George added 12 points and eight rebounds and Robert Horry had 11 points, 10 rebounds and six assists.

Kevin Garnett had 18 points and 12 rebounds and Troy Hudson also had 18 points for the Timberwolves.

Bryant outscored the Timberwolves 10-2 by himself to start the final period, shooting 5-of-5, and Devean George added four points to make it 83-65 with 8:19 remaining. Another basket by Bryant and two free throws by O'Neal made it 87-65 with 7:04 to play. The only suspense after that was whether O'Neal would get a triple-double, which he didn't.

THE PHILADELPHIA 76ers try to close out their first round NBA Playoffs series against the New Orleans Hornets in Game Six today (Saturday, May 3) live at 9:30 a.m. on Solar Sports, with a replay at 8 p.m. The 76ers lead the series, 3-2.

Celtics 110, Pacers 90

In Boston, Paul Pierce had 27 points and eight rebounds, and Antoine Walker scored 21 points as Boston beat Indiana and advanced in the playoffs for the second straight year.

Jermaine O'Neal had 25 points and 19 rebounds for the Pacers, who couldn't make it out of the first round for the third consecutive season, losing this time in six games.

Indiana trailed by as many as 27 points in the second half.

O'Neal was ejected with 3:25 left in the fourth quarter, along with Boston's Mark Blount, for a minor altercation.

Indiana stretched the series to six games by rallying from a nine-point, fourth-quarter deficit in Game 5 to force overtime. Once there, the Pacers held the Celtics scoreless—the first time that's happened in the NBA playoffs in the shot-clock era.

Nets 113, Bucks 101

In Milwaukee, Kenyon Martin scored 29 points and Jason Kidd had a triple-double to give the reigning Eastern Conference champion New Jersey a win over Milwaukee and place in the next playoff round

Kidd had 22 points, 11 assists and 11 rebounds as the Nets advanced to the second round, where they'll play Boston beginning Monday.

Gary Payton had 24 points for the Bucks, who trailed by as many as 22. They were down 88-70 heading into the fourth quarter, and the best they could do was cut their deficit in half—99-90 on a basket by Payton with 5 1/2 minutes remaining.

Martin had 27 points in the first three quarters.

Spurs 87, Suns 85

In Phoenix, Tim Duncan shot just 4-of-12 for 15 points, but had 20 rebounds and 10 assists for his second career playoff triple-double as San Antonio advanced at the expense of Phoenix.

The West's No. 1 seed dispensed of the Suns 4-2 in the best-of-seven series and will play the Los Angeles Lakers in the second round.

Stephen Jackson, playing with a strained tendon in his lower right leg, added 19 points—nine in the fourth quarter. He was 5-for-9 from 3-point range. Tony Parker added 17 points, and Manu Ginobili scored 12 by going on 4-of-7 3-pointers—a pair of them coming in a 12-2 surge that put San Antonio ahead for good midway through the fourth quarter. *AP*

AT A GLANCE

NBA PLAYOFFS 2003

EASTERN CONFERENCE

(1) Detroit vs. (8) Orlando
Magic 3, Pistons 2
Game 1: Orlando 99, Detroit 94
Game 2: Detroit 89, Orlando 77
Game 3: Orlando 89, Detroit 80
Game 4 : Orlando 100, Detroit 92
Game 5: Detroit 98, Orlando 67
Game 6 at Orlando (May 3, 7am)

(2) New Jersey vs (7) Milwaukee
Nets 4, Bucks 2
Game 1: New Jersey 109, Milwaukee 96
Game 2: Milwaukee 88, New Jersey 85
Game 3: New Jersey 103, Milwaukee 101
Game 4 Milwaukee 119, New Jersey 114
Game 5: New Jersey 89, Milwaukee 82
Game 6: New Jersey 113, Milwaukee 101
New Jersey wins series, 4-2

(3) Indiana vs (6) Boston
Pacers 2, Celtics 4
Game 1: Boston 103, Indiana 100
Game 2: Indiana 89, Boston 77
Game 3: Boston 101, Indiana 83
Game 4: Boston 102, Indiana 92
Game 5: Indiana 93 Boston 88
Game 6: Boston 110, Indiana 90
Boston wins series, 4-2

(4) Philadelphia vs (5) N. Orleans
Sixers 3, Hornets 2
Game 1: Philadelphia 98, New Orleans 90
Game 2: Philadelphia 90, New Orleans 85
Game 3: New Orleans 99, Philadelphia 85
Game 4: Philadelphia 96, New Orleans 87
Game 5: New Orleans 93, Philadelphia 91
Game 6 at New Orleans (May 3, 9:30 am)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

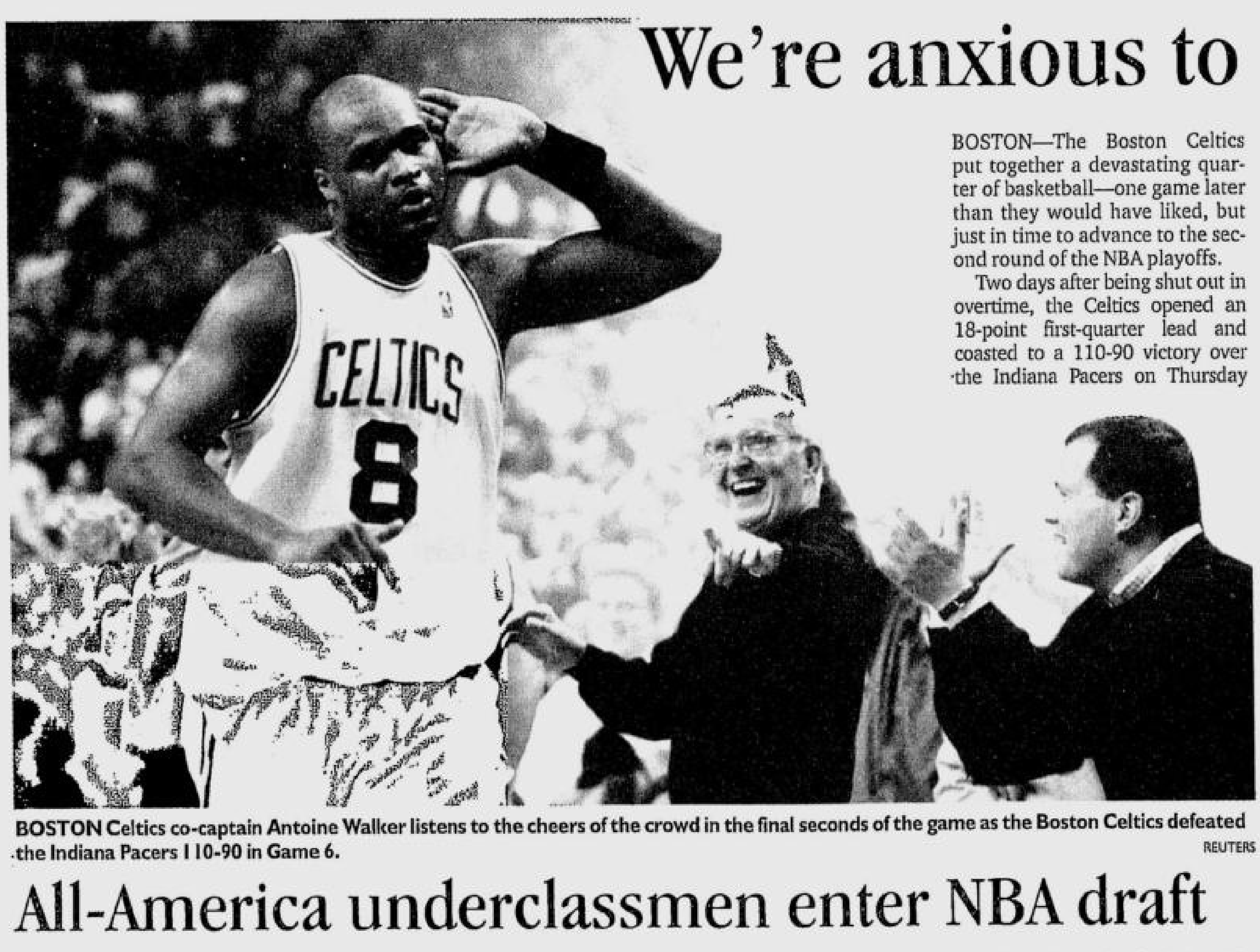
(1) San Antonio vs (8) Phoenix
Spurs 4, Suns 2
Game 1 Phoenix 96, San Antonio 95 (OT)
Game 2: San Antonio 84, Phoenix 76
Game 3: San Antonio 99, Phoenix 86
Game 4: Phoenix 86, San Antonio 84
Game 5: San Antonio 94, Phoenix 82
Game 6: San Antonio 87, Phoenix 85
San Antonio wins series, 4-2

(2) Sacramento vs (7) Utah
Kings 4, Jazz 1
Game 1: Sacramento 96, Utah 90
Game 2: Sacramento 108, Utah 95
Game 3 Utah 107, Sacramento 104
Game 4: Sacramento 99, Utah 82
Game 5: Sacramento 111, Utah 91
Sacramento wins series, 4-1

(3) Dallas vs (6) Portland
Mavs 3, Blazers 2
Game 1: Dallas 96, Portland 86
Game 2: Dallas 103, Portland 99
Game 3: Dallas 115, Portland 103
Game 4: Portland 98, Dallas 79
Game 5: Portland 103, Dallas 99
Game 6 at Portland (May 3, 10:30 am)

(4) Minnesota vs. (5) LA Lakers
Wolves 2, Lakers 4
Game 1: LA Lakers 117, Minnesota 98
Game 2: Minnesota 119, LA Lakers 91
Game 3: Minnesota 114, LA Lakers 110
Game 4: LA Lakers 102, Minnesota 97
Game 5: LA Lakers 120, Minnesota 90
Game 6: Los Angeles 101, Minnesota 85
Lakers win series, 4-2

We're anxious to be there—Pierce



BOSTON Celtics co-captain Antoine Walker listens to the cheers of the crowd in the final seconds of the game as the Boston Celtics defeated the Indiana Pacers 110-90 in Game 6. REUTERS

BOSTON—The Boston Celtics put together a devastating quarter of basketball—one game later than they would have liked, but just in time to advance to the second round of the NBA playoffs.

Two days after being shut out in overtime, the Celtics opened an 18-point first-quarter lead and coasted to a 110-90 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Thursday night to win the best-of-seven series 4-2.

"We were just anxious to get out there," said Paul Pierce, who had 27 points with eight rebounds. "We said, 'We should have ended the series the other day in Indiana.' We wished we could have that one back."

Antoine Walker scored 21 for Boston, which missed the playoffs for six consecutive years' before making it to the Eastern Conference finals last year and losing to New Jersey. The Celtics will have to go through the Nets again: they beat Milwaukee 113-101 in Game 6 later Thursday to advance.

Eric Williams had 10 points and eight rebounds off the bench, and Walter McCarty had 13 points, sinking 3-pointers on the first two shots of the game as the Celtics got off to a scorching start and never looked back.

Boston was 13-of-16 from the floor in the first quarter and made 14 consecutive shots in the first half to open a 23-point lead. They stretched it to 27 points in the third and never led by less than double digits after Tony Delk's 3-pointer made it 22-10 eight minutes into the game.

"It was awful good,". Celtics coach Jim O'Brien said of the first 12 minutes. "That was awful good basketball."

Jermaine O'Neal had 25 points and 19 rebounds for Indiana before he was ejected with 3:25 left in the fourth quarter, along with Boston's Mark Blount, for a minor altercation.

Indiana has now lost in the first round three times under coach Isiah Thomas, who got little in this series from All-Star Brad Miller and future Hall of Famer Reggie Miller.

"I'm disappointed because I let the other 11 guys down," Reggie Miller said. "No question about it: It was 100 percent my fault. *AP*

Arenas is most improved

OAKLAND, Calif.—Golden State Warriors guard Gilbert Arenas won the NBA's Most Improved Player award Thursday—not that he thought there was much to improve.

"I didn't think I got a whole lot better this year," said Arenas, who flashed his usual broad grin while accepting the award from Warriors great Chris Mullin at the team's training complex. "I just got more playing time and more experience. I got a chill when they told me I'd won it. It's an honor.

"I've always had confidence that I'll be up there with the Jason Kidds and Gary Paytons. I just need to keep working hard." *AP*

Richardson faces jail term

SAGINAW TOWNSHIP, Michigan—Jason Richardson of the Golden State Warriors faces up to 93 days in jail and $500 in fines on a charge he assaulted his former girlfriend at her Michigan home.

According to a police report, Richardson was at his ex-girlfriend's home when he pushed her into a wall Tuesday. He and the woman have a 3-year-old daughter. *AP*

All-America underclassmen enter NBA draft

TEXAS' T.J. Ford and Marquette's Dwyane Wade, the only underclassmen on this year's All-America team, will both apply for the NBA draft.

They announced their decisions Thursday, as did Washington State junior guard Marcus Moore. The three joined a list that includes Syracuse freshman Carmelo Anthony and juniors Mario Austin of Mississippi State, Chris Kaman of Central Michigan and Luke Ridnour of Oregon.

The draft is June 26.

Ford, who had said during the season that he was "110 percent" sure he would return for his junior year, led Texas to the Final Four for the first time in 56 years.

"It's been a real tough decision," Ford said. "I feel like I'm making the right decision. I'm not shaky about it at all."

He led Texas in scoring (15.0), assists (7.0) and steals (2.0) this season after leading the nation in assists as a freshman. His 527 career assists rank second in school history. *AP*

Torres stuns Bulauitan in long jump …

From page A19

she won the women's 800m with a 2:19.89 clocking, five seconds ahead of Air Force bet Rosel Espina, who took the silver.

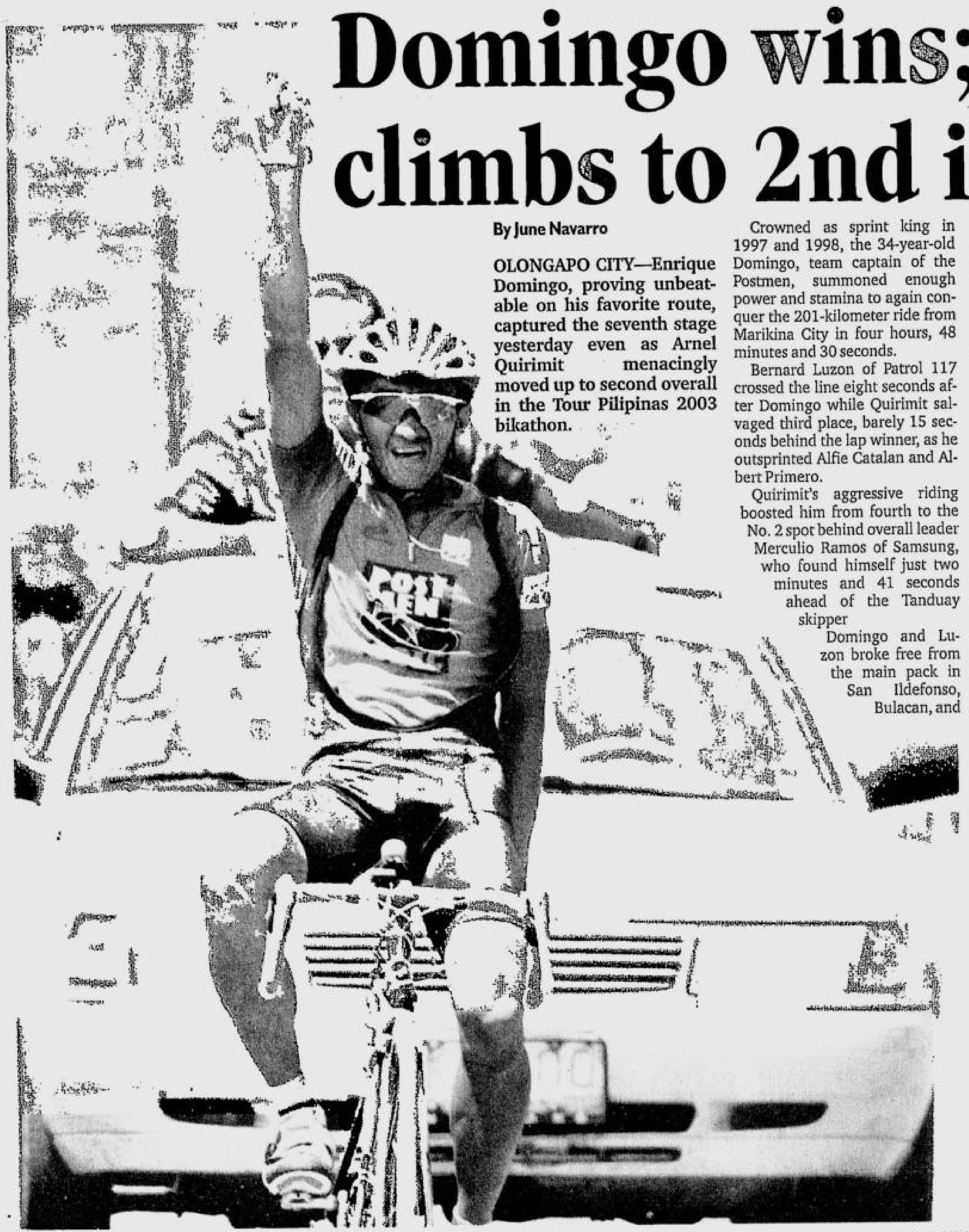
Navy's Melinda Manahan ruled the women's 10,000m walk, while Cecilia Pinay-An of the Army captured the women's 100m hurdles.

Roy Ocon of Davao City topped the boys' 800m to lead the winners in the junior division.

Melchor Ayon-ayon of La Salle-Dasmarinas dominated the boys' 400m hurdles, Michelle Libacay of Baguio Colleges Foundation captured the girls' 800m, while Rosalyn Buenafe of TMS Ship snared the girls' 10,000m walk gold.

Jasmine Chavez of Laguna Province won the girls' 100m hurdles, while teammate Mariz Cotoner ruled the girls' high jump.

Domingo wins; Quirimit climbs to 2nd in Tour



DOMINGO raises his arm in triumph.

VAL HANDUMON

By June Navarro

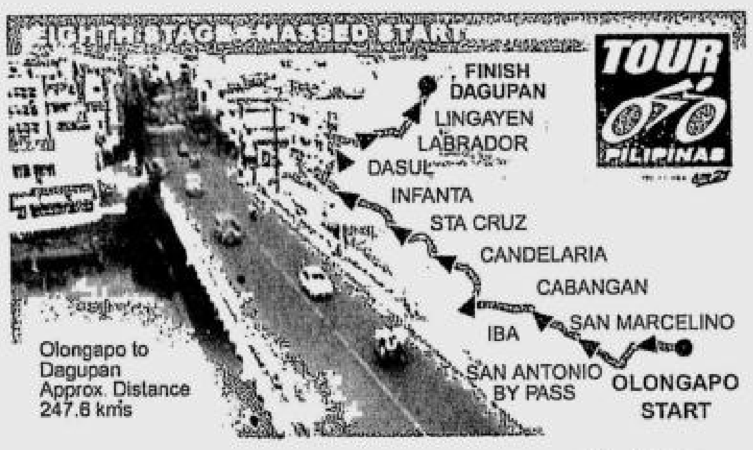
OLONGAPO CITY—Enrique Domingo, proving unbeatable on his favorite route, captured the seventh stage yesterday even as Arnel Quirimit menacingly moved up to second overall in the Tour Pilipinas 2003 bikathon.

Crowned as sprint king in 1997 and 1998, the 34-year-old Domingo, team captain of the Postmen, summoned enough power and stamina to again conquer the 201-kilometer ride from Marikina City in four hours, 48 minutes and 30 seconds.

Bernard Luzon of Patrol 117 crossed the line eight seconds after Domingo while Quirimit salvaged third place, barely 15 seconds behind the lap winner, as he outsprinted Alfie Catalan and Albert Primero.

Quirimit's aggressive riding boosted him from fourth to the No. 2 spot behind overall leader Merculio Ramos of Samsung, who found himself just two minutes and 41 seconds ahead of the Tanduay skipper

Domingo and Luzon broke free from the main pack in San Ildefonso, Bulacan, and never looked back.



"I told Bernard (Luzon) that we shouldn't waste our efforts by allowing the pack to gobble us up," said Domingo in Tagalog.

Domingo also ruled the same lap in 1998 and Renato Dolosa of Gilbey's Island Punch even predicted a Domingo repeat over the same route before the race started.

"*Teritoryo niya 'yan.* (It's his route)," said Dolosa.

Domingo jumped from seventh to fifth in the overall race, five minutes and 36 seconds off Ramos, who finished 13th in the lap, along with a big group of riders that included Dolosa, Felix Celeste Danny Ganigan, Arthur Bucay and Sherwin Diamsay.

"It's getting more and more difficult each day. Everybody's watching me so it's hard to make a move," said the 24-year-old Ramos, who complained of a painful right arm and stomach after colliding with another rider on Thursday.

All eyes will again be on Ramos when the riders take on the 247.6-kilometer drive today to Dagupan, Pangasinan, the longest lap in the Tour presented by Air 21 and sponsored by Longines, BPI-MS, Look-Vittoria, Selle Italia, Mail & More, FedEx and Lipovitan.

Placido Valdez wound up 19th for the day and dropped to third place overall.

Warren Davadilla, the 1998 champion and two-lap winner so far, suffered a flat tire in San Fernando, Pampanga and came home 30th among the 83 riders.

As a result, Davadilla slipped to seventh overall behind Luzon (fourth), Domingo (fifth) and Rhyan Tanguilig (sixth).

Dolosa flirted with disaster when a bystander grabbed his bike and caused him to spill some three kilometers from the finish. But the two-time champion got up fast and finished the race in the company of the seven-man fifth group that included Ramos.

The gutsy finish allowed Dolosa to crash into the Magic 10 from 12th, 10 minutes and 58 seconds behind the overall leader.

Mechanical problems hounded Dominador Tacu-tacu of Samsung, Bowling Gold's Dionisio Mendoza and Roque Bautista of PLDT-NDD while Ruel Casaljay and Art Dela Cruz barely finished the race due to dehydration.

In another incident, race escort Alvin Arceo collided head-on with a scooter rider in Lagro, Quezon City, but escaped with only a slight injury.

A big enthusiastic crowd led by mayor Gloria A. Crespo-Congco turned up to see the cyclists when they entered the sports-crazy town of Cabiao, Nueva Ecija halfway through the lap.

Overall Standings

RANK	RIDER		TEAM	TIME
1	MERCULIO	RAMOS	SAM	23h10'09.341
2	ARNEL	QUIRIMIT	TAN	23h12'51.321
3	PLACIDO	VALDEZ	DRU	23h12'51.322
4	BERNARD	LUZON	PAT	23h14'38.531
5	ENRIQUE	DOMINGO	POS	23h15'46.132
6	RHYAN	TANGUILIG	PAG	23h18'15.011
7	WARREN	DAVADILLA	INT	23h19'50.991
8	LLOYD	REYNANTE	PAG	23h21'01.831
9	FREDERICK	FELICIANO	DRU	23h21'05.783
10	RENATO	DOLOSA	GIL	23h21'07.911
11	FERNANDO	ALAGANO	INT	23h21'26.632
12	SANTI	BARNACHEA	BOW	23h21'44.582
13	RONALD	GORRANTES	ECO	23h22'03.861
14	ARNOLD	MARCELO	POS	23h26'32.074
15	JOSEPH	MILLANES	TAN	23h26'33.483
16	LITO	ATILANO	GIL	23h27'32.110
17	ALFIE	CATALAN	BOW	23h31'17.002
18	ALBERT	PRIMERO	PLD	23h32'51.292
19	DANNY	GANIGAN	SAM	23h34'22.567
20	FELIX	CELESTE	VAT	23h35'03.235
21	CARLO	JAZUL	ECO	23h35'40.923
22	SHERWIN	DIAMSAY	VAT	23h37'47.432
23	REINHARD	GORANTES	PAT	23h39'02.164
24	REYNALDO	NAVARRO	POS	23h39'08.942
25	EUSEBIO	QUIÑONES	PAT	23h40'58.031
26	PATERNO	CURTAN	ECO	23h43'12.782
27	ERICSON	OBOSA	TAN	23h44'19.632
28	JOEL	CALDERON	VAT	23h45'17.284
29	GERRY	AMAR	PAT	23h47'08.275
30	MANUEL	MENDOZA	SAM	23h48'12.776
31	BENITO	LOPEZ	VAT	23h49'17.082
32	CARLO	GUIEB	ECO	23h49'44.253
33	ARTHUR	BUCAY	INT	23h51'25.302
34	NILO	ESTAYO	INT	23h58'30.081
35	PAULO	MANAPOL	INT	23h59'47.741
36	ROLANDO	PAGNANAWON	BOW	24h02'17.096
37	WILFREDO	CALOSA	POS	24h05'22.301
38	DOMINADOR	JACOB	TAN	24h08'57.572
39	AVELINO	BAYUGA	VAT	24h12'39.342
40	JOFFREY	TALAVER	BOW	24h12'43.734
41	MICHAEL	REYES	INT	24h15'17.953
42	OSCAR	RENDOLE	DRU	24h15'48.111
43	DIONISIO	POSILERO	PAT	24h16'29.684
44	JAY	TOLENTINO	PAG	24h17'27.803
45	ARNEL	ESPINO	PAG	24h18'54.004

7TH LAP STANDINGS

RANK	RIDER		TEAM	TIME
1	ENRIQUE	DOMINGO	POS	04h48'30.620
2	BERNARD	LUZON	PAT	04h48'38.770
3	ARNEL	QUIRIMIT	TAN	04h48'45.800
4	ALFIE	CATALAN	BOW	04h48'45.800
5	ALBERT	PRIMERO	PLD	04h48'45.800
6	FREDERICK	FELICIANO	DRU	04h48'50.870
7	SANTI	BARNACHEA	BOW	04h48'50.870
8	SHERWIN	DIAMSAY	VAT	04h50'17.450
9	ARTHUR	BUCAY	INT	04h50'17.450
10	FELIX	CELESTE	VAT	04h50'17.450
11	RENATO	DOLOSA	GIL	04h50'17.450
12	DANNY	GANIGAN	SAM	04h50'17.450
13	MERCULIO	RAMOS	SAM	04h50'17.450
14	RHYAN	TANGUILIG	PAG	04h50'31.370
15	JOSEPH	MILLANES	TAN	04h51'20.320
16	NILO	ESTAYO	INT	04h51'20.320
17	LITO	ATILANO	GIL	04h51'20.320
18	RONALD	GORRANTES	ECO	04h51'20.320
19	PLACIDO	VALDEZ	DRU	04h51'20.320
20	ARNOLD	MARCELO	POS	04h51'40.510

TEAM STANDINGS

PL	TEAM	TIMED	DEFICIT
1	INTEL	93h53'57.91	
2	PATROL 117	94h02'17.79	00h08'19.87
3	TANDUAY RHUM RIDERS	94h07'16.36	00h13'18.44
4	POSTMEN	94h14'20.95	00h20'23.03
5	SAMSUNG	94h15'00.51	00h21'02.60
6	ECO SAVERS	94h30'41.82	00h36'43.90
7	VAT RIDERS	94h32'38.42	00h38'40.50
8	PAGCORSPORTS	94h39'31.49	00h45'33.57
9	BOWLING GOLD	94h44'52.08	00h50'54.16
10	DRUG BUSTERS	95h03'35.49	01h09'37.57
11	GILBEYS ISLAND PUNCH	95h13'58.16	01h20'00.24
12	PLDT-NDD	96h18'04.93	02h24'07.01

Bikefest moved

SYDNEY, Australia—The world track cycling championships scheduled for China in July will be moved elsewhere because of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak, a senior International Cycling Union (UCI) official said Friday. *AFP*

David sparkles for Montaña

By Dennis U. Eroa

LIPA CITY—Gary David isn't nicknamed King David for nothing.

The 6-foot-3 David, a farmer's son from Dinalupihan, Bataan, keyed Montaña's fourth quarter blast as it whipped Hapee, 77-70, last night and kept its semifinal hopes alive in the Sunkist-PBL Unity Cup at the La Salle Sentrum here.

David's eight-point explosion in that span triggered a 16-point run that enabled the Jewels to move ahead for good, 71-63, less than three minutes to go.

The win boosted Montaña's record to 4-5. It will meet Viva Mineral Water (5-5) tomorrow at the San Juan Gym.

Hapee, which is already in the semis, dropped to 7-3.

Pepe Chavez, true Tour devotee

By June Navarro

CHAVEZ

MARIKINA CITY (via PLDT)—To the competing cyclists, summer's gritty, faithful sons, the Tour is an annual trek.

But meet a Tour regular who has looked up to the cycling marathon as a lifetime devotion, not a mere test or ritual.

"I'm happy in the Tour. To tell you frankly, I will drop anything I'm doing just to be in the Tour. It's an unfading devotion."

That's Felipe Chavez, aka Ka Pepe, whose four sons and three daughters highlighted their summers sending off their father to the Tour.

Ka Pepe has been so deeply attached to the summer spectacle on wheels that, he said, he would die a little each year the Tour would not get off the road.

'It's hard to explain, but I feel very weary whenever the Tour is not around," said Ka Pepe.

That's the reason why Ka Pepe is in the pink of health, very bubbly indeed, these days after the Tour came back after being dormant for four years.

Ka Pepe, for the record, has been one of the Tour's pillars of success for more than two decades.

Acting as assistant commissaire in the Tour Pilipinas, Ka Pepe is one of the few officials designated to oversee the smooth conduct of the race, a job he molded to perfection since joining the Tour family in 1977.

Ka Pepe is one of the five assistant commissaires working under the supervision of the chief commissaire, whose main task is to maintain order in the race by strictly applying the tournament rules.

Not only that, Ka Pepe is also a keen-eyed troubleshooter in the Tour, doing and fixing almost everything that needs attention to ensure a trouble-free race.

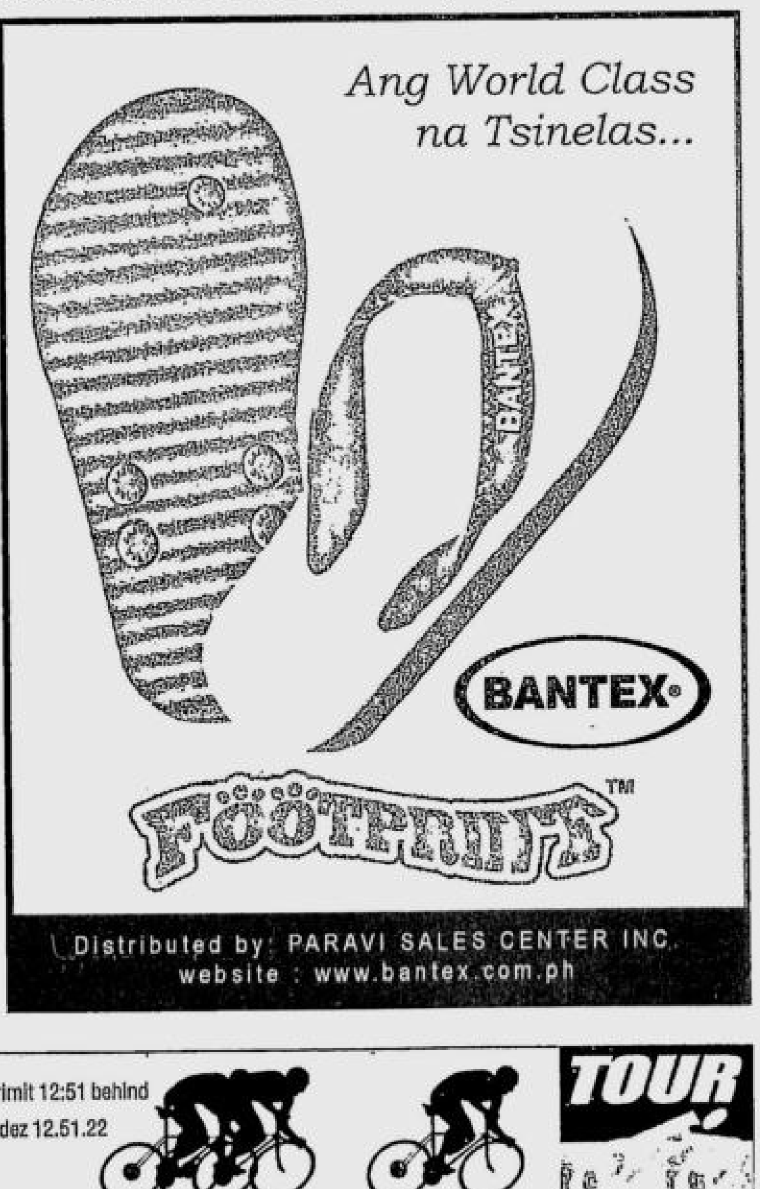
"In the race, I always stick to my job as assistant commissaire. Off the race, I look for other concerns that need trouble-shooting or polishing," said Ka Pepe, who turned 60 on Wednesday.

"These are the things that I do since I joined the race management of the Tour. And so far, I and the race officials are successful in striking a balance on those aspects," added Ka Pepe.

A favorite among the members of the print media for his friendly aura, Ka Pepe is also a top official of the Philippine National Cycling Association, the cycling body tasked to conduct the races of the Tour.

Formerly known as the Professional Cycling Association of the Philippines, the PNCA focuses on the race aspect of the Tour, including the screening of riders, road surveys and routing, among others.

During the Tour off-season, Ka Pepe indulges himself in fiesta races in the countryside aside from selling pigs for a living.



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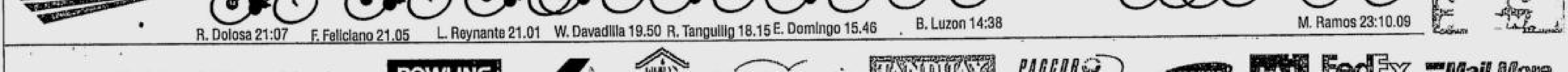

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MICHELOB LIGHT OPEN

Power-hitting Jenny 3 shots behind

ROSALES

By Jong Arcano

JENNIFER Rosales played just one stroke worse than Annika Sorenstam with her two-under-par 69 yesterday and stood just three shots behind the three leaders in the opening round of the $1.6 million Michelob Light Open at Kingsmill at the par-71, 6,285-yard Kingsmill Golf Club in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Rosales, displaying her best against hefty playing partner Laura Davies of England in a driving contest, birdied two of the last four holes to gain a share of 10th place with Korean star Se Ri Pak, recent Nabisco major winner Patricia Meunier-Lebouc of France and four others.

Tour rookies Giulia Sergas and Lorena Ochoa submitted 66s like Denise Killeen to move up by one over Koreans Grace Park and Hee-Won Han.

Sorenstam was in a four-player logjam at 68.

Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin opened her bid with an even-par 72 and was among those tied at 38th spot.

Rosales, off to her best start in four LPGA seasons with winnings of $71,075 in just six starts, was almost flawless off the tee, missing just one fairway. She hit 12 greens in regulation and got rewarded with five birdies, including the 15th and 18th which boosted her up the leaderboard.

Rosales, endorsing the American Eye Center and Pagcor in the LPGA, could use her distance to finally notch a professional victory on a course which gives long-hitters a big edge. She averaged 278.5 yards with the driver yesterday, far better than the 271 logged by the Tour's longest hitter Sorenstam.

Meanwhile, Jenny's brother Gerald tallied a 72 to put himself in 30th place at the start of the Maekyung LG Fashion Open at the Nam Seoul Country Club in Korea. Gerald, the only Filipino in the field, stood five strokes off solo leader Kang Wok Soon.

In Japan, Frankie Minoza struggled with a two-over 72 for a 142 total and slid to 68th place after the second round of The Crowns at the Nagoya Golf Club. Peter Teravainen, the lanky American who had seen action in a lot of local tournaments in the past, shared the lead with Japanese Tomohiro Kondo and Taichi Teshima at 132.

SPORTSWATCH

Jopson, Jarina win

NONOY Jopson survived a tough battle while Mylene Jarina did it the easy way as they topped their respective divisions in the recent Osaka Iridology Triathlon held at Bantayan island in Cebu. Jopson, the Philippine record holder, subdued current RP no. 1 Noel Salvador in the bike stage to top the premier male open class with a time of two hours, 11 minutes and 56 seconds. Jarina boosted his chances of gaining a slot in the national triathlon team following her runaway victory in the female open category with a time of 2:36:45. As expected, Jarina topped her favorite swimming event with ease, then piled up her lead in the bike and run legs to coast to victory virtually unopposed. Eventual second placer Amale Mendezona-Jopson followed 12 minutes later while Mary Ann Nillas came in at third (3:14:43).

San Beda cagefest

SAN Beda College launched recently its first SBC Alumni Basketball League at St. Placid's Sports Center inside the school grounds in Manila. The two-month long tournament supported by San Miguel Corp. and PLDT honcho Manny Pangilinan has attracted 18 teams that have been divided into three groups to even out the competition, with each group coming out with its division champion. Group I is composed of High School Batches '76 to '83, Group II covers Batches '84 to '94, while Group III has the youngest batches, from '95 to '01. The opening game saw Team '76, bannered by ex-PBA stars Frankie Lim and Chito Loyzaga, clobbering Team '78, score, 95 to 65; in the other scheduled game, another former PBA superstar Samboy Lim and current Red Lions coach Jonathan Reyes powered Team '79 to an 84-74 victory over Team '77. Loyzaga topscored with 26 points while Reyes chipped in 11 markers for the winning team.

Charity Open golf

THE FIRST Silver Tee Charity Open Golf Tournament will be held on May 6 at the Philippine Navy Golf Club in conjunction with the 25th Foundation Week of Prudentialife. Tee-off is at 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Proceeds of the tournament will go to the beneficiaries of the Prudentialife Foundation Inc. At stake is a Prudentialife Pension Plan worth P1,000,000 for the first hole in one and other valuable prizes. Various companies, institutions, friends and guests are invited to join this tournament. This was announced by Jose "Pepito" Gonzales Jr. of Prudentialife. Interested participants may contact Anna at 892-3172.

'Guts and Glory' meet

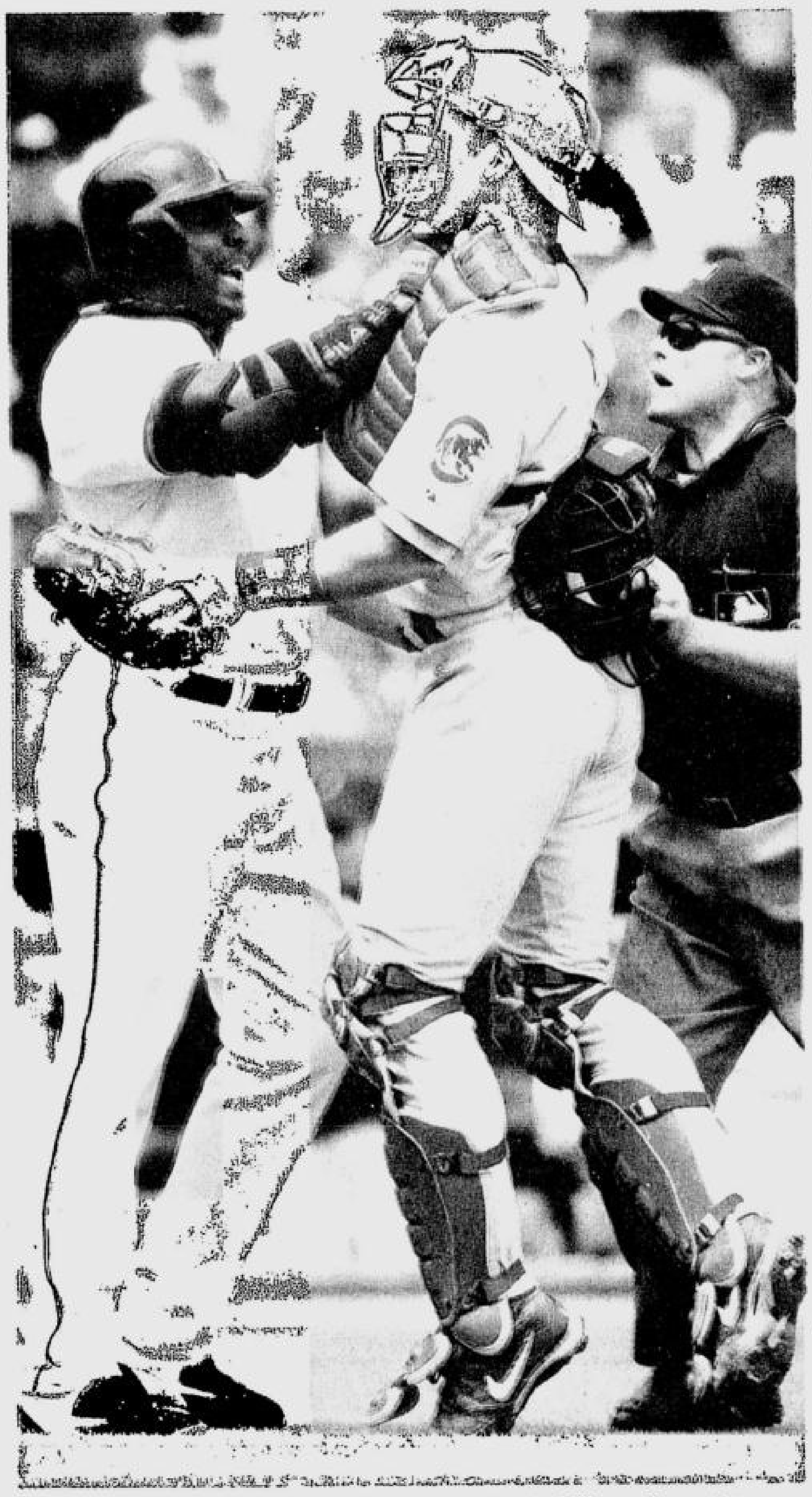
MANDALUYONG Coliseum will stage the "10th Ucap Guts and Glory LCC Leonard 7-Cock Derby" on May 6 and 8. Hosting the event are partners Alex Tang of Bicol, Nelson Co and Louie Cua. It is being sponsored by Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer, Sagupaan Mite Free Shampoo, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Lakpue Drug's Washout Shampoo. Submission of entries is on May 5, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For details, contact 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341. Last Thursday, Makati's veteran cocker-sportsman Emil Chua emerged solo champion in the "Golden 7-Cock Derby." Chua's bet, All Captains, bested 40 other participants with 6.5 points.

Uy brothers prevail

DAVAO'S Uy brothers (Bebot & Arthur Chungkee) shared the championship in the recent P4.2M Cebu 6-cock derby by posting 5.5 points each. Boxing manager/businessman Wackee Salud hosted the event held at the Casino Filipino-Waterfront Hotel in Mactan. Sonny Lagon's Blue Blade entry was runner-up with 5 points. The two-day tussle registered a total of 162 entries from Manila, Cebu and the Visayas & Mindanao islands. Both loyal users of Thunderbird Power Feeds and Univet products, the Uy brothers are Davao City's most prominent cocker-breeders who founded and continuously support the strong Mindanao Gamefowl Breeders Association. Bebot's SF Blue Quartz entry & Chungkee's Tagun Sport Center, fought a fleet of fighting cocks composed of Roundhead-Dink Fair Sweater Crosses, Hatch Kelso & Johnny Jumper over Blue Face Hatch.

'Kick First' football

DAVAO CITY—The "Kick First" grassroots development summer football school, a joint program of the new Davao Football Association and the Kauban Football Foundation, holds the first of its two football competitions today at the Agro Football ground. The tournament has five categories. The categories are for ages 5 year and below; 6-9 years old; 10-13, 14-16 years old and the ladies open in a 7 a-side. The festival age group tournament starts at 8 a.m. today. Trophies and medals will be awarded to the winners. *Joselle R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*


BONDS (left) tries to get by Chicago Cubs' catcher Damian Miller and homeplate umpire Marvin Hudson after Bonds got hit with a pitch from Cubs' pitcher Mark Prior during the third inning. AFP

Cubs run over Giants

SAN FRANCISCO—Alex Gonzalez hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning for his second home run of the game and Sammy Sosa followed with another shot Thursday to lead the Chicago Cubs to a 5-1 victory over the San Francisco Giants.

After an error by third baseman Edgardo Alfonzo put two runners on base with two outs in the 10th, Gonzalez connected off Tim Worrell (1-1) for his second homer of the year. Sosa's 505th career homer made it 5-1.

Juan Cruz (1-0) pitched two perfect innings for the win.

Gonzalez's first homer tied it at 1-1 leading off the sixth and snapped a 17-inning scoreless streak by Giants starter Damian Moss.

Both benches cleared in the third inning after Cubs starter Mark Prior hit slugger Barry Bonds in the upper right leg on a 1-1 curveball. Bonds, hit twice on breaking pitches by Kerry Wood on Tuesday, began walking to the mound and Prior motioned him on as they exchanged words. No punches were thrown. *AP*

Complete results:

American League–Baltimore 5, Detroit 2 (first game); Baltimore 6, Detroit 4 (second game); Minnesota 6, Tampa Bay 5 (13 innings); Boston 6, Kansas City 5; NY Yankees 2, Seattle 1; Toronto 7, Texas 6; Chi White Sox 7, Oakland 5; Anaheim at Cleveland (postponed - rain). **National League**–Montreal 5, Milwaukee 0; St. Louis 6, NY Mets 5 (10 innings); Cincinnati 7, Colorado 2; Chicago Cubs 5, San Francisco 1 (10 innings); Pittsburgh 5, San Diego 2; Atlanta 8, Houston 7; Florida 4, Arizona 3; Philadelphia 4, Los Angeles 1. *Reuters.*

Top Driver Challenge set Sunday in Carmona

BUDDING racers take the challenge of the kart track in the second round eliminations of the C! Top Driver Challenge on Sunday at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

Organized by the Tuason Racing School, the event is part of the five-phase elimination for the TRS-Ford Lynx Cup set to unfold on July 26. Eighteen promising drivers out of the 150 aspirants survived the first round eliminations in Time Zone in Glorietta 4 last April 13 and have secured for themselves free seats to the Kart Racing Clinic in Cavite.

After the clinic, they will test their skills on a real kart race and only the 15 best-timed drivers will advance to the third round of this event sponsored by Ford Lynx and supported by Goodyear Tyres, Standard Insurance, Adidas, Red Horse Beer, The Philippine Star, MTV, Magic 89.9 and Trapik.com. For inquiries on the TRS-Ford Lynx Cup C! Top Driver Challenge, interested parties can log on at www.tuasonracing.com or may call up the Tuason Racing School office at 531-2962.

Garcias finish 1-2 at Eagle Ridge tilt

BROTHERS Frederick and Paolo Garcia turned the battle for the Class A title into a family duel, completing a 1-2 finish in the recent members monthly medal tournament of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club's Aoki and Norman composite course in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Frederick finished three strokes ahead of Paolo with his three-over-par 75 as they jointly parried Japanese expatriate Shinichi Ogihara's bid for a second consecutive title in the premier division of the tourney sponsored by Callaway through local distributor Electrobus Consolidated, Inc.

Oscar Ordinario, preparing for his defense of the Eagle Ridge Invitational overall title next month, topped Class B, Roberto Sison captured Class C and Hermogenes Arayata ruled Class D.

Organizers, however, are out to prepare the two feared courses in their friendliest setup for the expected field of more than 200 teams vying for the overall title and four other divisions.

Shotgun start for all combination days (Friday/Dye-Saturday/Faldo, Friday/Faldo-Sunday/Dye and Saturday/Dye-Sunday/Faldo) is 10:30 a.m.

KENTUCKY DERBY

Lady jockey aims high

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—Rosemary Homeister Jr.'s appearance in Saturday's Kentucky Derby may not be historic but what she does could mark a first in the 129-year history of the Run for the Roses.

While plenty of women can be seen strolling Churchill Down's famed grounds on the first Saturday in May teetering on high heels, sporting summer dresses and gaudy wide-brimmed hats, only four times in over a century of racing have they been spotted in silks perched on the back of a horse.

Homeister will be the fifth woman but the first since Julie Krone in 1995 to saddle up for the Derby when she takes 50-1 longshot Supah Blitz to the start for the mile-and-a-quarter first jewel of the Triple Crown.

Riding in the Derby, however, won't be enough for the striking blonde with the constant smile as she looks to have her horse in the thick of the fight for the $1.11-million purse.

Even a modest top 10 finish in the 17-horse field would mark a watershed moment for women racing in the Derby with Krone and Patricia Cooksey, the first female to compete here in 1984, having posted the best results with 11th place finishes.

After all, her mother and father were both jockeys and so is her husband Jose Ferrer.

AP

Slow start by 'Red Shark'

BARCELONA, Spain—Ferrari's new F2003-GA made a slow start on its debut in practice for the Spanish Grand Prix here Friday as world champion Michael Schumacher ended in an unfamiliar 15th position.

Schumacher's teammate Rubens Barrichello could only post the 10th best time during the hour-long practice session at the Catalunya circuit as the new car made a long-awaited introduction.

The latest Ferrari, dubbed the "Red Shark" by the Italian media, missed its scheduled debut in the San Marino Grand Prix two weeks ago because of problems with reliability.

Schumacher was 1.723 seconds off session-leading brother Ralf Schumacher's pace in the Williams-BMW. *AFP*

PSA hosts 50-cock derby

THE BATTLE between the Sagupaan Dream Team and the Ucap champions will be the highlight of the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) 50-cock Main Derby on May 12 at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Notables fielding their top cocks in the derby are *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, Ucap president Raymond Velayo, ambassador Danding Cojuangco, Richard Bates, OPMI head Vic Yu, Jake Macasaet, Tos Reyes, Charlie Reyes, Pol Estrellado, Blandy Tolentino, William Go, Jun Marasigan, Dicky Lim, Mario Espinosa, Rey Briones, Commissioner Jun Sevilla, Sandy Javier, lawyer Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza, Sen. Ramon Revilla.

Bobit Ples, Mauro Prieto, Sonny Lagon, Tony Lasala, Mayor Arman Sanchez of Sto. Tomas, Batangas, Ferdie Topacio, Benjie Lim, Louie Cua, Congressman Rudy Albano, Alan Tan, Gerry Ramos of Las Piñas, hotelier Biboy Enriquez and Jet Fernando and Ramon Mansenares.

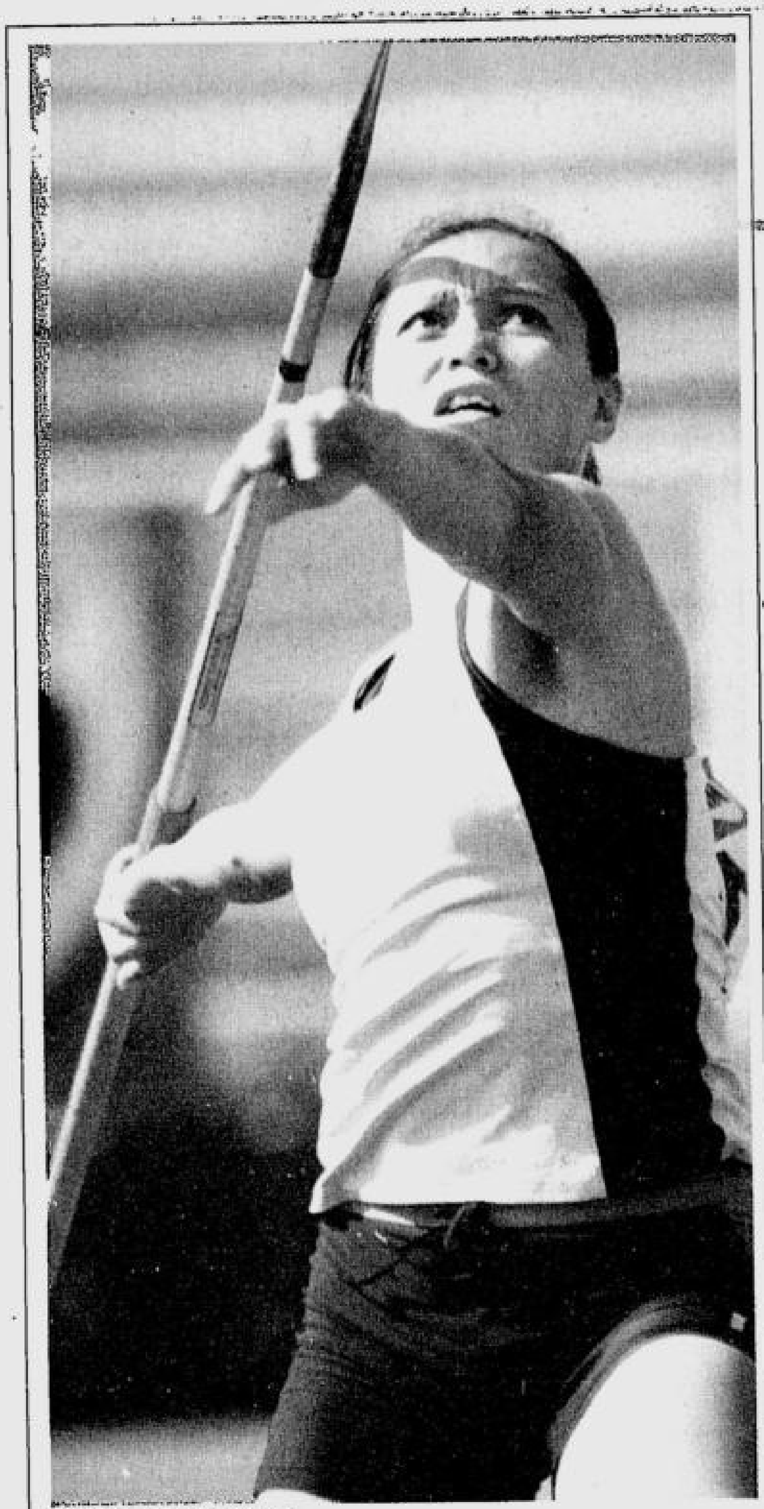
SHOW JUMP CHAMP

Joker Arroyo shows the form that catapulted her to victory in the 1.30-meter show jumping competition of the Annual Horse Show recently at the Manila Polo Club. The 14-year-old Arroyo is a daughter of Sen. Joker Arroyo.

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

SPORTS

Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva



JAVELIN WINNER
Jeralyn Amandoron hurls the javelin en route to winning the gold medal yesterday in the 2003 National Track and Field Championship at the Rizal Memorial Stadium. Story on A19. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

It's final: Lanao Palaro reset for May 18-25

Dimaporo welcomes new schedule; repairs underway

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE EVENT has been moved two weeks later, but it's final: Lanao del Norte gets to host the 2003 Palarong Pambansa in its capital town of Tubod.

From the original May 4-11 schedule, the Palaro will be held May 18-25 to make last-minute road repairs and implement tighter security measures.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain announced yesterday that the decision to delay the staging of the national games was agreed upon by the PSC, the provincial government of Lanao del Norte, the Department of Education,

Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda Dimaporo welcomed the new schedule, saying this will allow the province more time to ensure the success of the Games and showcase Lanao as a viable site for sports, cultural, tourism and economic development.

DIMAPORO

BUHAIN

"We are leaving no stone unturned to ensure a smooth, trouble-free staging of the Games," said Dimaporo. "It has always been the province's dream to bring the Palaro here."

Last week's firefight between the MILF and the military in two towns near Tubod had threatened the Palaro, but local officials said the peace and order situation in the province had improved vastly since then.

In fact, Buhain described the fighting as "isolated cases of violence," basing his observation on military and police reports.

"We also do not want to exaggerate reports. So, if the situation in Tubod is safe for the athletes, we will say it as it is. We will all be there in Tubod, we won't leave the athletes alone,"said Buhain.

The MILF leadership had also assured Philippine Olympic Committee chairman Robert Aventajado that the rebel group won't touch Palaro athletes and officials before, during and after the sportsfest.

Dimaporo said the province is also working double time preparing for the opening and closing ceremonies as well as rushing the repair of the road from Cagayan de Oro to Tubod.

"Sports knows no boundaries and should serve as a unifying factor among Muslims and Christians," said Buhain. "We should all stand and rebuild the Palaro and the region's image to help make our country a strong nation again."

Buhain, Gov. Dimaporo and her husband, Rep. Dimaporo are encouraging the student athletes and parents to take part in the Palaro which will be held at the Mindanao Civic Center built at a cost of P500 million.

Armed Forces chief of staff Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, PNP chief Dir. Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane and DepEd Sec. Edilberto de Jesus also endorsed participation in the Games which is expected to lure some 5,000 student athletes.

Compassion not condemnation

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHO will be next?

First, Jimwell Torion. Second, Alex Crisano. Both were caught using shabu, an illegal drug. Before them, Asi Taulava and Dorian Pena got collared for using marijuana.

Shabu being deadlier than marijuana, Torion and Crisano were suspended indefinitely. Taulava and Pena received only two-game suspensions each.

Who said drug use in the PBA is something new?

For the record, also found using banned drugs in the recent past were at least three imports, all of whom the PBA had banned for life. How many more are left uncaught, who knows?

I received word yesterday that Batang Red Bull management has decided not to abandon Torion, who, the papers reported, will lose P2.2 million in salaries this year. Torion's playing contract gives him P250,000 a month.

Torion has an unpaid house in Antipolo; he pays at least P82,000 for its monthly amortization. He is a father of four; his wife is unemployed.

"Of course, we will take care of him," said the Red Bull man. "More than at any time in his life, this is the time that he needs us most. We will never abandon him."

I can't ask for more, sir. For the record, I do not know Torion personally. I haven't met him yet. I do not intend to. I wrote about his plight because I just felt that at this time that he's down, you, being his benefactor, should be the first to come to his rescue.

I was also told that, for the record, it was not Batang Red Bull that imposed the indefinite suspension on Torion. It's the PBA. That is the reason Red Bull cannot replace Torion. The rule says a suspended player cannot be replaced, the reason why Red Bull has been playing with only 11 players in its lineup.

Same with Barangay Ginebra, Crisano's team.

But unlike Torion, Crisano, like Taulava and Pena, is a Fil-Am. Or is Crisano a Filipino-Italian and Taulava a Filipino-Tongan? Whatever, the score thus far in the battle to weed out drug-users in the PBA is 3 Fil-Ams against 1 Filipino.

I'm sure Crisano will suffer the same fate as Torion. For whether he likes or not, Crisano will also be suspended indefinitely by PBA Commissioner Eala. Like Red Bull, Ginebra can't do anything about that. A rule is a rule is a rule.

Now if Ginebra copies Red Bull's move and make Crisano a practice player (with compensation to boot?), then Crisano has team manager Ira Maniquiz to thank for. Or is it Ginebra coach Allan Caidic?

Suddenly, it's time for compassion instead of condemnation. Even a dead man walking, as when Sean Penn was being led to the gallows in the film "Dead Man Walking," needs our thoughts of reassurance as the Good Book always reminds us. That was personified in the film by Sister Helen (Susan Sarandon), the only person left to detest condemnation as she tenaciously clung to Godly compassion for the doomed murderer (Sean Penn), from Death Row up to the Death Chamber.

How many of us can be a Sister Helen when challenged by the likes of Torion and Crisano - even as Crisano, unlike Torion, has denied using shabu by way of refuting the results of his tests?

At one time or another in our lives, we have our own crosses to bear - imposed or otherwise.

Meanwhile, I understand even the PBL has started to institute measures to zero in on PBL players possibly using banned drugs. This is good, the PBL being the jumpoff point of many aspirants dreaming to land a job in the PBA.

I just hope that it be done properly and not haphazardly. Not merely a `palabas' as in a zarzuela or a moro-moro.

If I may suggest further, PBA Commissioner Eala should really pursue his campaign against drug-users with vigor. He can start by expanding the drug-testing methods by eliminating the random style of flushing out the culprits. The more players tested after a game, the more chances of weeding out the termites of the league.

And please, no more of the ningas-cogon trait we Filipinos are known for worldwide.

Let's do it, if we have to do it.

SPORTSTV Compiled by L. Manguiat

TRACY McGrady

BASKETBALL: Pistons vs Magic, Game 6; 7 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.); ESPN - The Magic got whipped in Game 5, but they still hold a 3 -2 advantage over the Pistons as the scene shifts to Orlando.

Sixers vs Hornets, Game 6; 9:30 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.); Solar Sports - New Orleans hopes to sting Philadelphia and force a decisive Game 7.

MOTOR SPORTS: Spanish Grand Prix Qualifying; 9 a.m., 2:30 p.m. (r) and 7:55 p.m.; Star Sports - F1 action continues in Barcelona as drivers battle for race position for Sunday's race.

GOLF: HP Classic of New Orleans, Second Round; 4 p.m. (r); Star Sports - Akio Sadakata and Paul Stankowski made the most of ideal playing conditions as they share the early lead after the First Round.

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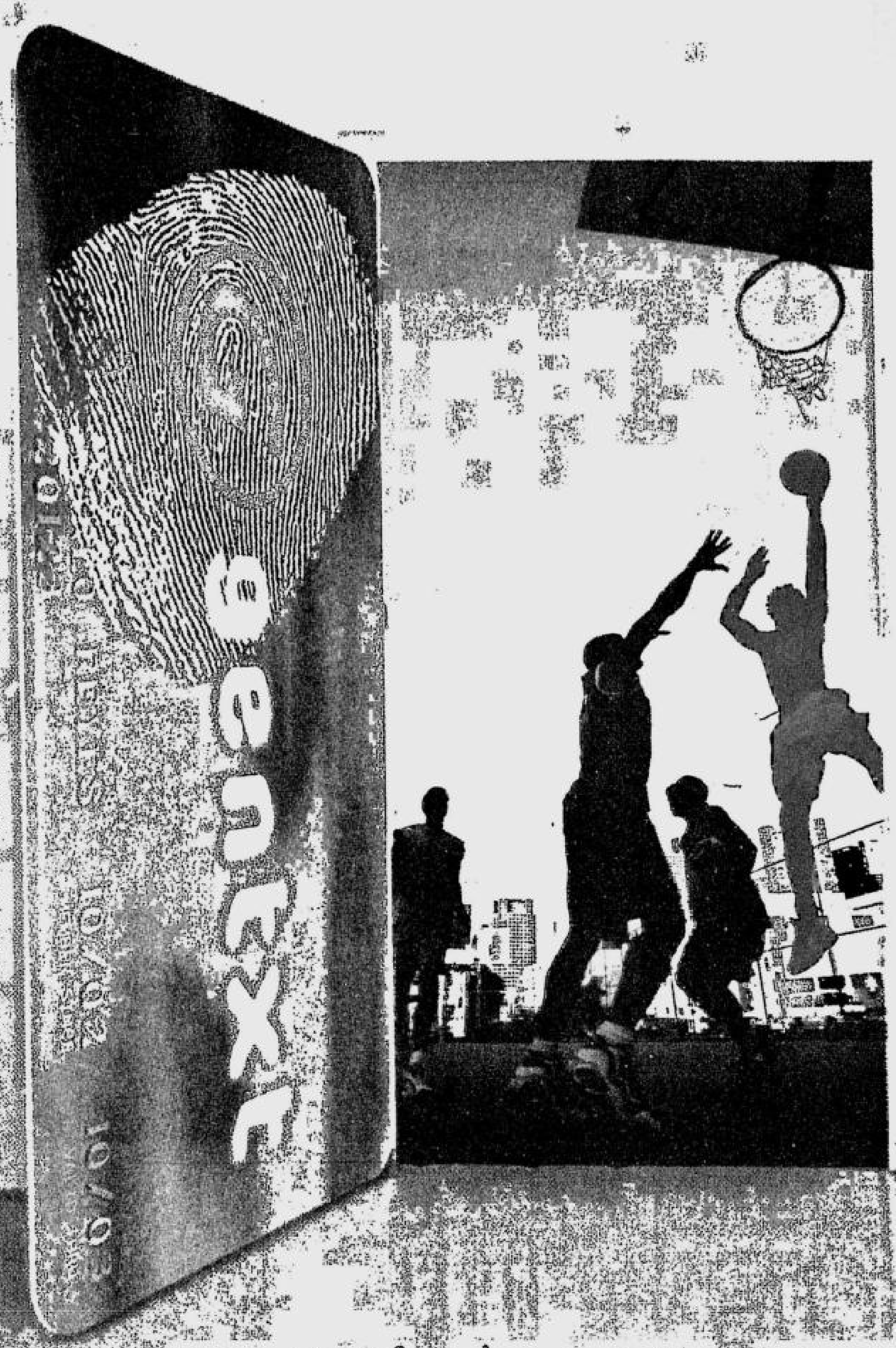

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SPORTS

May [illegible] **[illegible] Basketball [illegible]**
[illegible]

May [illegible] **Gentxt National Beach Football [illegible] Championship @ Boracay [illegible]**
[illegible]

May [illegible] **adidas Streetball Challenge 2003 presented by Gentxt**
[illegible]

May 9, 16, 23, 30, 5-9pm **Gentxt on Ice**
[illegible] Megamall Ice Skating Rink
May 24: SM Southmall Ice Skating Rink
[illegible]

May 30 - Jun 1 **NBA Madness**
Experience NBA action on tour in this [illegible]
Opening Ceremony @ SM Southmall

[illegible]

May [illegible] 9pm **Gentxt Nights @ DISH, Rockwell Power Plant**
[illegible]

May [illegible] & 18, 8pm **Woman in Black by Repertory Philippines @ Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati**
[illegible]

May 9-23 **Movie Madness @ The Fort**
[illegible] MTV Movie Awards nominees [illegible]
May 9: The Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring
May 10: Spiderman
[illegible]
May 23: The Ring (Hollywood version)

May 31 **MTV Movie Awards Live in L.A.**
[illegible]

May 2[illegible] **Ricky Martin Live in L.A.**
[illegible]

May 29 **Gentxt Single Storm @ the Basement**
[illegible]

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May 1-31		**Cocacabana @ Kalayaan Avenue, Makati** [illegible] discount
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BUSINESS

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RP seen meeting 3-month growth target

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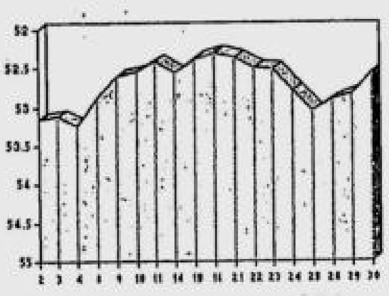


APRIL

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 52.55 = $

As of 5 p.m., April 30, 2003

¥ 119.46 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., April 30, 2003

GOLD: $335.50-336.00

per ounce Hong Kong, April 30, 2003

STOCK MARKET

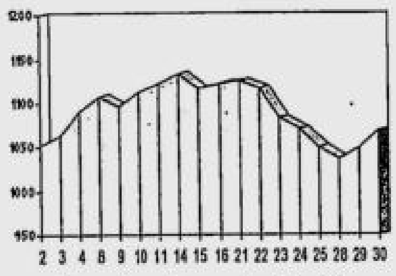
Trading resumes Monday

FINANCIAL markets were closed Thursday and yesterday for the Labor Day holidays, with normal trade to resume on Monday.

On Wednesday, the Philippine stock index closed up 19.78 points, or 1.89 percent, at 1,068.15 points. The peso ended firmer at 52.55 to the US dollar, against 52.82 on Tuesday. *Reuters*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

APRIL



(See stock market report on Page B2)

DTI set to fast-track NSC auction
BUSINESS /B3

By Michelle V. Remo

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the country was poised to meet its growth target for the first quarter of the year, saying preliminary economic figures were "encouraging."

"Leading indicators, such as figures on the manufacturing sector's production value as well as power consumption, are high and signal that we are on track to meet the target," Neri said in an interview.

For the first quarter of the year, the government set the country's gross domestic product growth target at 4 to 4.5 percent.

For the month of February, manufacturing output by value recorded an 11.4-percent rise from the year-ago level, while value of sales likewise increased by 17.5 percent, data from the National Statistics Office showed.

Electricity consumption, the biggest contributor to GDP, recorded an 8.5-percent increase in the first two months of the year, according to the National Economic and Development Authority.

NERI VAL HANDUMON

Neri, who is also director general of the Neda, said that since the government was likely to hit its GDP growth target, the focus now should be on whether the growth was one that reached out to the grassroots level.

"What I'm looking at is whether the growth is a poverty-alleviating type that benefits the masses, like growth that comes from the development of our agricultural communities," Neri said.

He said the government should see to it that the bulk of the expected growth would come from sectors that were labor intensive, such as agriculture, construction and the country's small and medium enterprises, to make sure it benefitted the low-end majority of the population.

AGGRESSIVE COLLECTION EFFORTS

Customs exceeds April collection goal of ₱8.1B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Customs yesterday said it has substantially exceeded its target of P8.1 billion in April due to continued efforts to collect taxes and duties aggressively from importers.

Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo said that the collection last month reached P8.924 billion, or 10.2 percent more than the P8.1-billion target for the month.

From January to April, Customs has raised P35.645 billion, or 16.4 percent more than the target of P30.2 billion for the period. It was also 22.6 percent higher than the previous year's 4-month collection of P29 billion.

"We are pleased with the bureau's performance due to the increased efficiency of revenue districts. We hope the trend will continue so we could meet the full-year target of P100.056 billion," Bernardo said in an interview.

Customs collects about 20 percent of the government's annual revenues while much of the remaining 80 percent had to be raised by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Other agencies also generate revenue from fees and charges.

The BIR said it would meet its P47.423-billion target this month as collections as of April 25 stood at about P46 billion.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said the agency's intensified tax campaign prompted taxpayers to settle their obligations. The bureau must deliver P424 billion this year to help the government contain the budget deficit at P202 billion.

Bernardo said the government was working double-time to boost revenues and bring down the fiscal gap. He pointed out that in the first quarter, the government exceeded its P131-billion revenue goal by more than P6 billion.

Alongside improving collection were efforts of the bureau to stem corruption and smuggling.

Customs has cracked down on bonded warehouses and shut down many of these facilities for being potential outlets of smuggling.

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Rush the ante

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WORD from the stock market, or whatever little is left of it, says that the small (i.e. not in height) stockholders of Cyberbay are organizing themselves into a lobby group.

I do not know yet what they have in mind, but it seems they are going to raise the ante in the case of Cyberbay before the Supreme Court, by injecting the element of public interest. Hmm.

Well, I am not sure if the Supreme Court has a history of changing its mind just because some ordinary people are going to lose their investments.

It is obvious that the lobby group will work on the Cyberbay case before the Supreme Court. Cyberbay has a pending motion for reconsideration with it.

Last June, you see, the Supreme Court ruled that the 750-hectare reclamation project of Cyberbay at the Manila Bay was—how shall I say it—unconstitutional.

Of course Cyberbay appealed the ruling, and recently, word went around that the Supreme Court would soon come out with the decision on the motion.

I don't know if the Supreme Court is trying to break some world record as the fastest thing alive in something, but, I mean, what can explain the rush?

***

SURELY the lobby group will work for a thorough deliberation of their case. From what I gathered, the Cyberbay camp is batting for an oral argument before the Supreme Court.

In our country, once the Supreme Court says you flash the toilet right now, you better fish out fast whatever valuable thing you dropped there, or else it's gone for good.

The Supreme Court always has the last ultimate final word on legal things, which must not necessarily have anything to do with toilets at all, or even droppings.

An oral argument can at least bring to the Cyberbay case a lot of public attention. At stake here is the safety of the financial system and, thus, the whole economy.

In business, they know that the Supreme Court ruling will affect several other reclamation projects worth billions of pesos which are all mortgaged with banks.

If the Cyberbay project is unconstitutional, nothing can stop some bozos (i.e. lawyers) from filing cases after cases against all those projects. Not even SARS!

***

ALL the developers of those other reclamation projects already received the land titles from the state-owned corporation Public Estate Authority or PEA.

Of course you know what every developer does with land titles. No, the developer does not put the titles in toilets! The developer always mortgages the titles with banks.

If, as the Supreme Court ruling last June implied, all the land titles for reclaimed property are illegal, then all the banks holding the same titles must be criminals.

Down here in the barangay of those small stockholders of Cyberbay, we grew up believing that you cannot mortgage something which the court says is not yours.

If you do such a thing, hacking something which you think is yours but is only yours illegally, we all know that you must go to jail.

We also learned that, in anything illegal, which must be a crime, the accomplice goes to jail, too.

In PEA reclamation projects, the accomplices are three past presidents of the Republic, namely, Tita Cory, Kuya Eddie and the man named Band...Wrist Band.

***

AMONG those reclamation projects approved during the time of Kuya Eddie was the huge 50-hectare development of the mall tycoon Tatang Henry Sy at the Manila Bay.

Tatang's company Shoemart wrapped up the deal with PEA way back in May 1994, or during the administration of Kuya Eddie.

At that time, Kuya Eddie's presidential legal adviser was still Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio. He served Kuya Eddie from 1992 to 1995. Reportedly, when Carpio left Kuya Eddie, they did not remain friends.

Anyway, before this cute administration of Gloriaetta put Carpio to the Supreme Court, he dabbled in column writing for the INQUIRER.

Carpio is one of the 'origs' of the Carpio Villaraza Cruz law firm, together with Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza and Avelino Cruz, who is the chief presidential legal counsel of Gloriaetta.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, who is the solicitor general of this cute administration, also came from the law firm. As they say, weather-weather *lang*.

***

AND yes, presidential legal adviser Carpio is the same Justice Carpio who penned that ruling which declared the Cyberbay reclamation project unconstitutional.

In the stock market, they are wondering why, in the three-year stopover of Carpio in Malacañang as legal adviser, the administration of Kuya Eddie approved at least 10 reclamation projects.

Apparently, at that time, the legal adviser of Kuya Eddie did not yet see all those projects similar to Cyberbay's as unconstitutional, particularly the huge development of Tatang's Shoemart.

Even George Ty, founder and chair of Metrobank, the country's largest bank today, has a similar project at the Manila Bay.

Or what about the coastal toll road, which was done by the DM Wenceslao & Jan de Nul consortium with the same arrangement with PEA as Cyberbay's?

***

BELIEVE me, somebody else, or some other group, is after the Cyberbay project.

Now, if somebody else is after the Cyberbay project, whoever gets it must be the luckiest son of his mother.

Cyberbay already relocated the squatters in the area. It even advanced the cost of relocation which was actually the job of the government.

But more than the cost, it's all the trouble in such a relocation which can cripple many property developers. You know—all the rallies and media attacks.

The Cyberbay project, however, became an on-and-off thing in the past eight years since it signed the contract with the PEA.

In between congressional inquiries and court rulings, Cyberbay moved a lot of equipment in and out of the reclamation area.

That alone entailed huge losses for the company and its small stockholders, not to mention the interest costs it incurred for all the delays that were not of its own doing.

ATR-Kim Eng tops PSE list

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL brokerage ATR-Kim Eng Securities Inc. has remained as the top broker at the Philippine Stock Exchange in terms of value turnover during the first quarter of the year.

A PSE report said ATR Kim Eng accounted for 15.82 percent of the PSE's total value turnover of P30.96 billion for the first three months of the year.

Ranking second was Deutsche Regis Partners Inc. with a share of 13.59 percent while third was ING Securities (Philippines) Inc. with a share of 8.41 percent.

For the month of March, ING Securities was the top broker, followed by Deutsche Regis, UBS Warburg Securities (Philippines) Inc., ATR-Kim Eng Securities and Philippine Equity Partners Inc.

The report for the full quarter indicated that more local brokerage firms were still in the PSE's 20 most active list, although foreign brokers still had a large share of the trading pie. Thirteen of the top 20 are local brokers while the rest were foreign-owned.

For the first quarter, ranking fourth was UBS Warburg Securities, followed by Philippine Equity Partners, CLSA Philippines Inc., BPI Securities, Abacus Securities, JP Morgan Securities, and ABN Amro Asia Securities.

Completing the top 20 list for the quarter were: SB Equities; Asiasec Equities; AB Capital Securities; Westlink Global Equities; DBP-Daiwa Securities SMBC Philippines Inc.; Papa Securities; Mandarin Securities; Lucky Securities; Strategic Equities Corp., and Angping & Associates Securities Inc.

CURRENCIES

May 2, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.902690	1.000000	52.817000
Japan	Yen	0.007533	0.008345	0.440800
United Kingdom	Pound	1.439429	1.594600	84.222000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.115747	0.128225	6.772500
Switzerland	Franc	0.662914	0.734376	38.787500
Canada	Dollar	0.625695	0.693145	36.609800
Singapore	Dollar	0.508386	0.563190	29.746000
Australia	Dollar	0.559218	0.619502	32.720200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.394531	2.652661	140.105600
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.240724	0.266674	14.084900
Brunei	Dollar	0.506958	0.561608	29.662400
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000115	0.006100
Thailand	Baht	0.021046	0.023315	1.231400
UAE	Dirham	0.245784	0.272279	14.381000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.107800	58.510700
Argentina	Peso	0.316733	0.350877	18.532300
Brazil	Real	0.310844	0.344353	18.187700
Denmark	Kroner	0.134640	0.149154	7.877900
India	Rupee	0.019096	0.021155	1.117300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.237582	0.263193	13.901100
Mexico	New Peso	0.087750	0.097210	5.134300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.502891	0.557103	29.424500
Norway	Kroner	0.128190	0.142009	7.500500
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015645	0.017331	0.915400
South Africa	Rand	0.125942	0.139519	7.369000
Korea	Won	0.000744	0.000824	0.043500
Sweden	Kroner	0.109756	0.121588	6.421900

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, April 30, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	15.75	16.25	15.75	16.25	123,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	36	36.5	35.5	36.5	378,600
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	5,390
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24	24	24	24	105,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	29	27.5	29	147,600
Philippine National Bank	24	24.5	24	24.5	4,400
Phil. Savings Bank	26	27	26	27	5,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10.25	10.25	10	10.25	7,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17	17.25	17	17.25	9,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.42	16,815,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1360	1360	1350	1350	560
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1055	1055	1030	1030	2,230
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12	12.25	12	12.25	4,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.71	0.76	0.71	.74	10,460,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	535	555	535	550	95,970
ISM Communications Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	1,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.32	0.34	0.32	.33	7,080,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	367.5	382.5	367.5	380	140,850
Ivantage Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	240,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	.013	600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	6.7	7	6.7	6.8	140,000
Manila Electric Co. B	9.7	10.25	9.7	10.25	993,000
Petron Corp.	1.98	2.08	1.98	2.06	9,093,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.95	0.95	.95	500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.48	12,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.46	2.42	2.46	84,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	5	50,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2	2	2	25,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.56	3,220,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	.1	70,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.68	.68	60,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	95,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16	16.5	16	16.5	1,025,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31	31	31	31	9,800
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	70,000
San Miguel Corp. A	55.5	56.5	55	56.5	950,200
San Miguel Corp. B	66	66	66	66	136,500
Universal Robina Corp.	4	4	4	4	452,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
Ayala Corp.	4	4	3.95	4	4,002,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	61,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	.024	100,000
A. Soriano Corp	0.62	0.62	0.62	.62	10,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	.2	30,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.3	2.32	2.3	2.32	6,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.195	0.22	0.195	.215	14,390,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	1,860,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	8.1	8.1	8	8	90,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	.16	70,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	50,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	.52	60,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.58	260,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	4,450,000
Music Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,630,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cirro-Coat Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	12,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	40,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.88	1.96	214,000
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	20	22	20	20	23,300
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.41	0.43	0.41	.43	5,490,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	200,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	.17	10,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	15,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	11.25	12.25	11.25	12	278,000
Pldt 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
WGA - Preferred	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	42,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.95	5.1	4.95	5	4,008,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	400,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.19	.195	2,070,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	.17	200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.86	0.88	0.86	.86	12,690,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	110,000
City & Land Developers	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	.2	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.75	4.95	4.75	4.9	5,483,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	40,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	350,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.185	0.19	0.185	.19	900,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0044	0.004	0.0044	149,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	.014	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	.25	50,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.26	.26	400,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.013	.013	3,500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	50,000

INTEREST RATES

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 30-Apr-03 (%)	MART1 29-Apr-03 (%)
1 Month	7.9271	7.8938
3 Months	8.1069	8.2045
6 Months	8.7942	8.9712
1 Year	9.6673	9.6731
2 Years	10.1652	10.2981
3 Years	10.7981	11.1058
4 Years	11.4577	11.6961
5 Years	11.7773	11.9892
7 Years	12.5542	12.8271
10 Years	12.9865	13.0846
20 Years	13.4423	13.5673
25 Years	14.0211	14.0846

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Napocor awards coal deals worth $21M

By Abigail L. Ho

STATE-RUN National Power Corp. has approved the award of two coal supply contracts worth around $20.8 million for the Sual Thermal Power Plant in Pangasinan and Masinloc Thermal Power Plant in Zambales.

Shanxi Coal Import/Export Group Co. bagged the $10.4-million contract for Sual while Shenhua Coal Trading Co. got the other $10.4-million contract for Masinloc.

In a letter to the Napocor board dated April 14, Napocor president and chief executive officer Rogelio Murga said that based on Sual's current coal inventory level, the Shenxi contract would have to be implemented by next month.

For Masinloc, the delivery should be made in August.

Shanxi offered a price of $32 per metric ton for 325,000 MT of steaming coal for Sual.

Shenhua's bid of $31.85 per MT won for it the contract to supply Masinloc with 325,000 MT of steaming coal.

Mirant Philippines, the local subsidiary of Georgia-based Mirant Corp., owns 92 percent of the Sual plant. It is one of the country's biggest independent power producers.

The Masinloc plant is run by Napocor.

DTI set to fast-track NSC auction

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry will convene the senior officers of the 15 lenders of National Steel Corp. to a meeting next week to finalize the bidding rules and financial arrangements for the failed steel maker.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said NSC's creditor-banks needed to fast-track the resolution of issues that had hamstrung the group from moving forward since the signing of a memorandum of agreement with NSC's Malaysian owner, Danaharta, for a debt write-off and conversion.

The four issues cited by Roxas were:

- the holding of an international tender for the sale or lease of NSC's assets;
- advances for expenses incurred in implementing the MOA; engagement of an investment banker to handle the bidding, and maintenance of the plant when NSC's funds run out;
- taxes, fees and other expenses related to the creation of a special purpose vehicle that would facilitate the transfer of assets; and
- payment of back and current taxes, related interest and penalties.

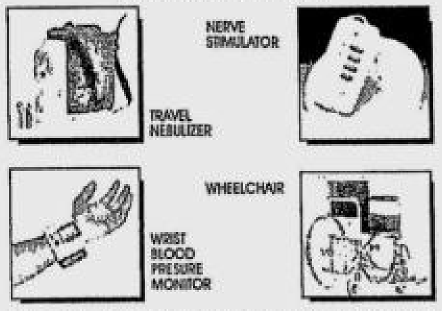
"While it is understandable that a large non-performing account like NSC takes a lot of effort and patience to turn around, we also know that we cannot afford to wait for the resolution of all these issues and ignore the consequences of the continuous deterioration of the plant," Roxas said.

Roxas has decided to call a creditor's meeting on May 7 at the Board of Investments building in Makati City apparently to sustain the momentum for the reopening of NSC which has slowed down in the past few months after one of the creditors, Credit Agricole Indosuez, opposed the creditors' pact.

Roxas also wanted to take advantage of the current shortage in steel products globally to stoke interest in NSC's bidding which has reportedly attracted at least five parties—Minmetals Zhejiang International Trading Co. Ltd. and China international Iron and Steel Investments Corp. (China); Bhicknapahari group of France; Bel Trade Investment Holdings Ltd. of Hong Kong, and Tael Capital of London.

NSC shut down its Iligan factory in November 1999 after its market share was eaten up by cheap Russian steel and its cash flow fell short of the requirement, particularly for interest expenses.

3-DAY SALE
(May 2, 3, 4, 2003)



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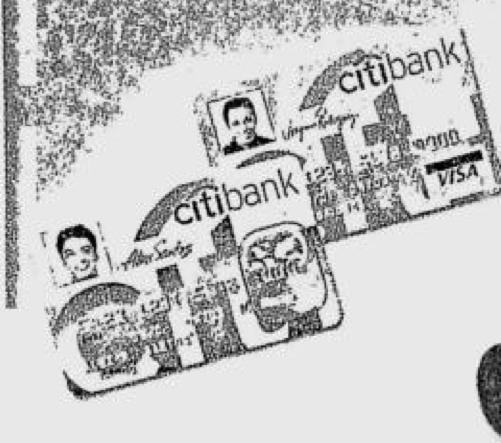

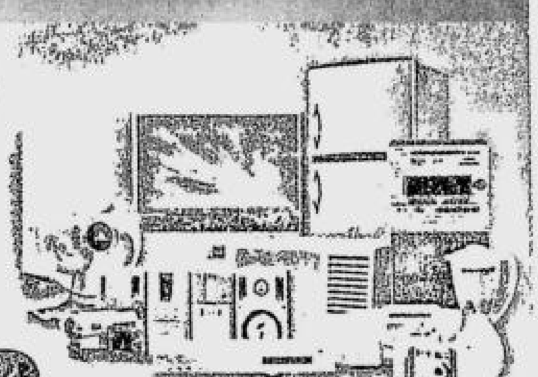

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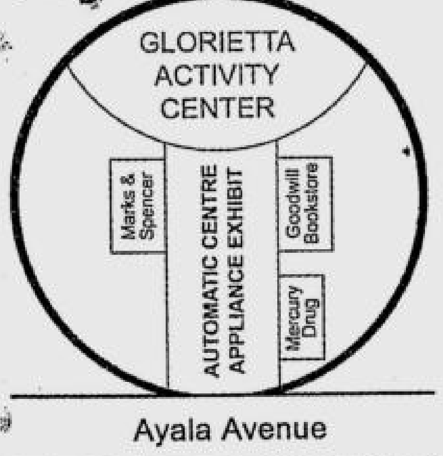

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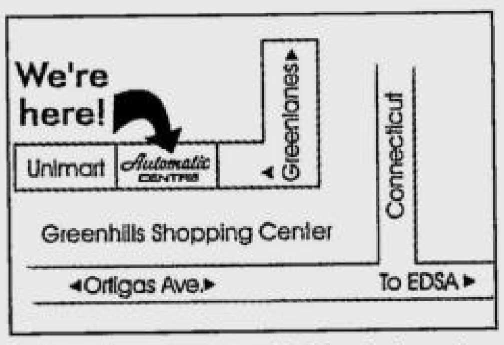
You, too, can be as lucky as them! You can win the **videoke microphone, digital camera**, foot spa, more electric fans, etc.

For a **minimum purchase of P500** at any Automatic Centre or Sogo branch, you get a scratch card in which you can win instant prizes. Plus, you can also join in the **grand raffle** wherein you can win various home appliances! **The top prize is a 43" projection TV.** Other major prizes include a **1hp airconditioner with timer,** videoke microphone, **2-door refrigerator,** digital camera, **fax machines,** hot and cold water dispensers, portable VCD players and cordless phone.

Promo is until June 30, 2003, so hurry and be cool and lucky this summer season with Automatic Centre's **Cool Summer Scratch**!

Automatic Centre Is Back in Greenhills!



At the former Manila Bank Arcade facing Ortigas Avenue

Greenhills shoppers and patrons can once again enjoy the best deals on top-of-the-line appliances at an Automatic Centre branch that's closer to them.

Now's the best time to get the latest home entertainment (audio & video) appliances and enjoy them in the comfort and safety of your home.

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

The Trust Maximizer: A wiser and safer investment alternative

WE ALL know what happened already, with the arrest of top investment scam suspects or so-called "pyramiding" kings and queens alleged by authorities to have duped hapless Filipino investors of their hard-earned money amounting to billions of pesos.

With careful analysis, it is not surprising that many gullible Filipinos fall prey to these people, all armed with glib tongues and charm, and the uncanny ability to convince even the most skeptic among us to buy almost anything. With skill and precision, they have perfected the art of presenting themselves as economic "saviors" with "messianic" ideals to economic affluence. It was not difficult for them to convince "investors" because the supposed "benefits" are so tempting and mouth watering. Unfortunately, despite obvious dangers posed by these "get-rich-quick" schemes, many are still mindful that these guile operators are cheating them of their savings.

Take heart, there are other much wiser and safer investment alternatives in the financial market that can help any investor enhance his wealth. They may not have the promised mind-boggling benefits - a high of 3 percent per month interest for those schemes compared to those offered by banks - but are totally safe and secure.

One safe investment alternative currently in the market is the Trust Maximizer from East West Banking Corp., one of the country's fastest growing and most progressive commercial banks. With the spate of investment scams spreading like wildfire in the country, an investment alternative like this would be most welcome.

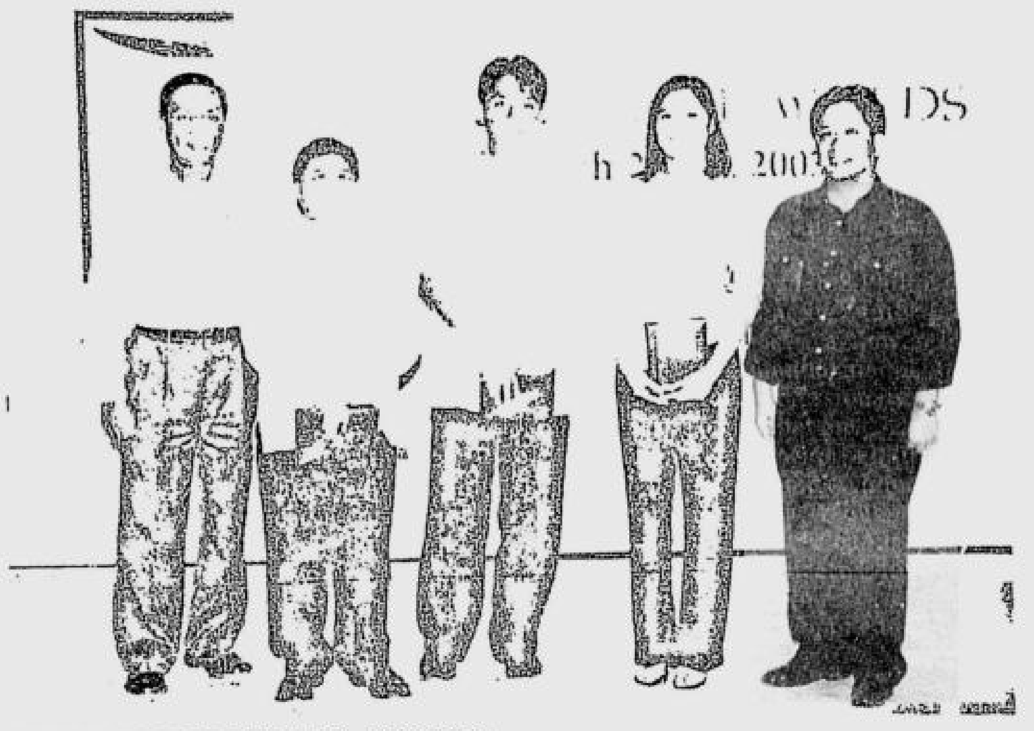
Loaded with a number of benefits, the EWBC Trust Maximizer boasts of better yields and a very affordable investment amount of only P10,000 or US$2,000. With the EWBC Trust Maximizer, even small investors can enjoy higher yields normally given to large investors since the funds are pooled together. Security of investment portfolio is another key benefit because the funds are invested solely in fixed-income instruments like government bonds for optimum yield and risk management.

All investment decisions and overall operations are governed, supervised and monitored by the Bank's Trust Committee and Board of Directors, and are audited regularly by East West Bank's external auditors and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). The diversified investment portfolio also acts as a safety net for the fund, which is part of the measures aimed at protecting the client's investment.

It is also worthy to note that just like deposit products, the Trust Maximizer sets aside reserve requirements with the BSP on top of the mandatory BSP reserve requirement for trust duties. However, unlike time deposits, the Trust Maximizer has no specified term of deposit provided the money invested stays with the fund for a minimum of 30 days. Investments continue to earn interest for as long as they are not withdrawn from the fund.

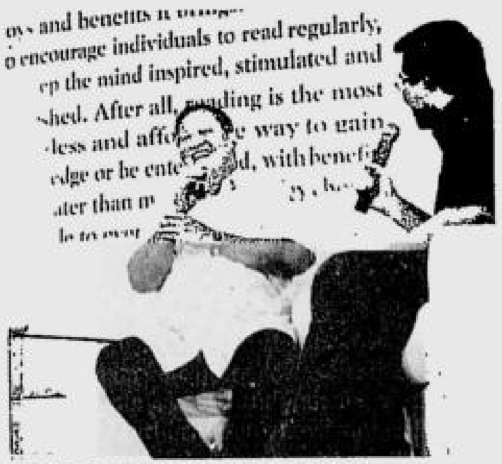
So in these trying times, it is better to be safe than sorry. Protect your investments and life savings through prudent investment decisions. And in these case, the Trust Maximizer provides a better and definitely a safer choice.

For more details on the Trust Maximizer, go to the nearest East West Bank Personalized Banking Center, inquire at EWBC Trust Department at 818-0080 or 830-8741, or email service@eastwestbanker.com.



AYALA PLANS ANNUAL AWARDS

Ayala Plans Inc. recently honored its top performers for the year 2002 in ceremonies at the Plantation Bay, Mactan Cebu City. Recognized for their stellar sales results were President's Cup awardees Pooch E. Pascua, area manager level (2nd from left); and Edgar C. Magboo and Roselle B. Parada, sales counselor level (center and 4th from left). Alfonso L. Salcedo Jr., Ayala Plans president (far right), and Lauro L. Abaño, business director handed out the awarils. Ayala Plans is a subsidiary of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) and is one of the country's most stable pre-need companies with a trust fund of over P1.4 billion pesos.



THE GRAND READSHOW

Recently, Visine staged the Grand ReadShow at the Glorietta Activity Center. A stellar assemblage of bibliophiles came together to encourage mallgoers to start immersing themselves with the knowledge to be gained from books. Hosts Bam Aquino and Lexi Schultze interviewed powerhouse guests that included former senator and education secretary Raul Roco, broadcasters Karen Davila, Christine Bersola and Julius Babao as well as sports couple Dodot and Mikee Jaworski. The afternoon was packed with games and fabulous prizes, courtesy of its sponsors National Bookstore, Powerbooks, the Inquirer and other media partners. Photo shows Bam Aquino interviewing lawyer Raul S. Roco, former senator and education secretary.

Ahead to open branch in Robinsons Galleria

AHEAD Tutorial & Review Center will open its second branch at Robinsons Galleria on May 9. The center will be located in Park Avenue, near Handyman, Digimac and Trust Trade.

The country's leader in tutorial and review services, Ahead has distinguished itself by making numerous firsts in the industry. Its branch in SM Megamall, which opened last December 2002, is the first-ever tutorial and review center in a shopping mall.

Through the years, Ahead has been helping thousands of young people get better grades, score high in school entrance tests, and ultimately develop their full potential. With one-on-one and group tutorials, patterned review courses for the entrance exams of top schools, and updated study materials, Ahead constantly elevates tutorial and review programs for today's youth.

Ahead's patterned review courses successfully prepare students for specific tests by exposing them to actual subtests, time limits and test conditions. They have been so effective that, among all other centers, Ahead maintains the highest percentage in the college entrance tests of UP, Ateneo and La Salle.

Ahead's review classes in this year are ongoing from April to October 2003 at various review centers and venues in Metro Manila. Tutorials for all subjects in preschool, grade school, high school and college are also being offered this summer vacation through Ahead's Summer Enrichment Program (SEP).

Ahead is also located in Loyola Heights, Greenhills and SM Megamall. For inquiries, call 426-0034 to 36.

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Smart and Talk 'N Text subscribers who send packages via FedEx Express (FedEx) may now monitor the status of their shipment using their mobile phones. Users have the option to track their package through the widely used text messaging platform or through the wireless application protocol (WAP). To monitor the packages, users should key in FDX, <airway bill number> and send it to 288. Subscribers will then receive information via text message whether their package are still in transit or have already been delivered and received. Subscribers will be charged P2.50 for each inquiry via text. Photo shows (standing from left) Marlon Mendoza, product development manager at Smart Communications Inc.; Annalissa Dimen, senior marketing specialist at FedEx; and Cons del Rosario, senior marketing manager at Airfreight 2100 Inc. Seated are Edgardo Bautista, Smart head for product development; Anastacio R. Martinez, Smart head for personal communications and mobile services division; Samuel David, FedEx country manager; and Reuben SJ Pangan, vice president at Airfreight 2100.

ASIAN SPIRIT OPENS CLARK ROUTE

Leading domestic airline Asian Spirit now flies from Clark to Boracay three times weekly after the airline held its inaugural flight last week. The opening of the Clark route also provides residents of Central Luzon a gateway to other tourist destinations that Asian Spirit services. Shown in photo receiving an aircraft model from Asian Spirit is Clark Development Corporation president Dr. Emmanuel Angeles (center) flanked by Asian Spirit chair Antonio Turalba Jr. (left) and Asian Spirit executive vice president Jack Po.

Island Cove's summer promos

ISLAND Cove Resort in Kawit, Cavite welcomes summer 2003 with great value packed deals.

Families may avail the Family Moments Promo for only P2,900 net on weekdays or P3,700 net on weekends with an overnight stay for two adults and two kids, aged 12 years or below, P1,000 food voucher which may be used in any of the resort's restaurants and kiosks, special kiddie treats, with 10 percent discount on Oceania Swimming Clinic, and free Nestle Woppo Frozen Delight per kid on weekdays.

Summer Romance promos for couples who likes to enjoy a rendezvous, complete with an overnight stay, complimentary breakfast and set lunch, "Sunset Blush" cocktail drinks, for only P2,800 net per couple on weekdays and P3,300 on weekends.

Family Moments and Summer Romance promos are packaged with full complimentary leisure and recreational activities like use of the Oceania pools, hotel pool and outdoor jacuzzi, one round of mini golf, one hour fishing, one hour use of the gym, 30 minute use of KTV room, waived entrance to Purple Ostrich Saturday dance party, special discount at Island Spa Medica, access and use of fitness track, playground, giant outdoor chess, and mini zoo and aviary.

Both promo packages are available until June 30. Book a weekday stay and receive a special token - a gift certificate (transferable) for free resort entrance and swimming, good for four persons - a perfect treat for a summer day trip.

For details and reservation, call Island Cove at (046) 434-0210 in Cavite or (02) 810-3740 / 5351 in Makati, or call Cavite direct through toll free numbers (02) 810-3718 / 3732 / 3764; text hotlines: 0920-625-7037; 0916-720-3339; or log on to www.islandcovephil.com. Island Cove also offers corporate or group summer day tour and overnight outings.

Come to Island Cove this summer and feel the excitement of a resort destination with the charm of a natural tropical island.

PHILHEALTH SIGNS TRIPARTITE HEALTH AGREEMENT

The Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) recently entered into a tripartite Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the local government of Agusan del Sur and Agusan del Sur Federation of Women's Health Cooperatives (FWHC) for the provision of health insurance coverage to 600 members from five (5) municipalities in the province. This is the first time that a health tripartite MOA was signed in Agusan del Sur in support to the implementation of the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood project in the municipalities of Bunawan, Esperanza, San Luis, Veruela and Santa Josefa. Shown signing the MOA are (from left) PhilHealth assistant vice president for Caraga Johnny Y. Sychua, Agusan del Sur Governor Adolph Edward Plaza and FWHC president Delia Sulapas.

Philips launches new Sonic Toothbrush

ROYAL Philips Electronics at the International Dental Show in Cologne, Germany announced the European debut of its next generation sonic toothbrushes, the new Philips Sonicare Elite. The new range will be available in Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

"We are confident that the success in the United States will help us to grow our business globally. Philips Sonicare's clinically proven benefits, combined with the importance that individuals place on oral health, has led to unprecedented growth and Philips Sonicare's number one market share position in the US. We closed 2002 with 54 percent US market share, increasing the gap between our brand and the nearest competitor to 15 points, the largest difference ever," said Conrad Smits, CEO of Philips Oral Healthcare.

"Patients who have used power toothbrushes have experienced a considerable improvement in gingival health and a recognition in plaque. I will be interested to try out the new improved version of the Sonicare," said David Winkler, DDS, Copenhagen, former president of the European Academy of Aesthetic Dentistry, who has advocated the use of power toothbrushes such as the Philips Sonicare system for the past three years.

The Philips Sonicare toothbrush was developed in cooperation with a team of peridontists and bioengineers at the University of Washington in Seattle. Based on more than 60 published studies and abstracts conducted at 25 universities worldwide, the Philips Sonicare power toothbrush has been proven to be significantly more effective than a manual toothbrush.

According to a June 2002 Philips Sonicare study, 64 percent of dental professionals personally used a power toothbrush rather than a manual model. Among those US dental professionals, Philips Sonicare was the number one choice.

The second generation Philips Sonicare, with patented sonic technology uses a combination of high frequency bristle motion and dynamic cleaning action. Moreover, the new Sonicare Elite features a two-minute "smartimer" to promote dental professional-recommended brushing time.

ProductFILES

SE SERVICE CENTER

Sony Ericsson

To further improve customer service quality and assistance, Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications Int'l. AB has opened a new authorized service center in Makati. The center, operated by SE Service Solutions Philippines Inc. is fully equipped to service and address concerns on all models of Sony Ericsson mobile phones and accessories. The Makati service center shown above is located at the ground floor of Tuscan Bldg., 114 VA Rufino St., Legaspi Village. The new service center is expected to complement the operations of Sony Ericsson's current service partners including Semicon, Smartnet and Memo Express.

Why world should take good care of its mothers

By Charles E. Buban

CONSIDER these: each minute around the world, 380 women become pregnant, 190 women face unplanned or unwanted pregnancies, 110 women experience pregnancy-related complications, 40 women have unsafe abortions, and one woman dies.

And because of complications related to pregnancy or childbirth, at least 515,000 women die each year, according to data from Safe Motherhood Initiative, a worldwide effort that aims to reduce the number of deaths and illnesses associated with pregnancy and childbirth.

"There is no phase more challenging in a woman's life than pregnancy and childbirth. Women must receive all the care they need to be safe and healthy throughout this period," said Dr. Lyra Ruth Clemente-Chua, president of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS).

In the Philippines, maternal deaths reach 4,800 every year.

Chua said the figure will go down if only women had more access to appropriate health care during pregnancy, childbirth and immediately afterward.

In developing countries, where 99 percent of the deaths occur, pregnancy and childbirth are the leading causes of death, disease and disability among women of reproductive age, or those between 15 and 44.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

The World Health Organization said maternal deaths account for at least 18 percent of the burden of disease in this age group—more than any other single health problem.

WHO said one woman in every 1,800 will die from pregnancy-related complications in developed countries; in developing countries, the lifetime risk is just one in 48.

Most maternal deaths are due to five major medical causes:

- Severe bleeding (hemorrhage)
- Infection
- Complications from unsafe abortion
- Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy
- Obstructed labor.

In developed countries, these deaths only account for less than one percent, demonstrating that they could be avoided if adequate resources and services were available.

Toll on children

Children are another casualty of maternal deaths.

"With poor care during pregnancy and delivery, infant deaths likely result," lamented Chua.

In fact, the WHO estimated that at least 30 percent to 40 percent of infant deaths are the result of poor care during pregnancy and delivery.

With poor maternal health and nutrition, babies suffer from low birth weight, making them more prone to infection, malnutrition and long-term disabilities, including visual and hearing impairments, learning disabilities and mental retardation.

Also, motherless children are likely to get less health care and education as they grow up.

What can be done

Safe motherhood can be achieved by providing high-quality maternal health services to all women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period.

The Safe Motherhood Initiative suggests providing the following services:

- Care by skilled health personnel before, during and after childbirth
- Emergency care for life-threatening obstetric complications
- Services to prevent and manage the complications of unsafe abortion
- Family planning to enable women to plan their pregnancies and prevent unwanted pregnancies
- Health education and services for adolescents
- Community education for women, their families and decision-makers.

"To reach out to more women nationwide, POGS has tied up with other institutions like Sanofi-Synthelabo Philippines in undertaking missions like free Pap smear tests that would check the spread of cervical cancer, one of the diseases also affecting mothers in the country," said Chua.

But she stressed that everyone should be involved in other activities ensuring that every woman will have access to quality services at the community level, in health centers and in district and regional hospitals.

"After all, the value of saving the life of a mother or infant is inestimable," she said.

RP medical mission now ready for Iraq deployment

AFTER THE KILLING comes the healing. Sixty Filipino medical workers, who underwent preparations for two weeks, are set to enter Iraqi territory this month to help "rehabilitate" the war-torn country.

The team is just awaiting the Status of Forces Agreement between the United States and the Philippines, said Dr. Cirilo Galindez, team leader of the medical mission.

Once the agreement is approved, Galindez will leave for the Qatar central command with representatives from the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The advance party will assess the area base situation and determine the needs of the 500 Filipinos—from the AFP, PNP and other agencies like the Department of Social Welfare and Development—to be deployed for services in Iraq.

The medical workers will be divided into two teams: a hospital team and a public health team. They will conduct immunization and sanitary inspections and ensure environmental health.

"There are a lot of things to do," said Galindez, a director of the Veterans Regional Hospital in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. "If there is an epidemic, then our epidemiologists will (conduct) epidemiological studies. Psychiatrists, psychologists and psych nurses (are on standby) to deal with the psychological traumas of war."

Tessa R. Salazar

Bad news for male drivers

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

DOES anyone remember the horrendous traffic jam on the South Luzon Expressway about seven or eight years ago, when it took 14 hours to get from Makati to Alabang and buses were supposedly floating in Sucat?

Over the years, many conditions have been associated with traffic, among them asthma, road rage, mental and physical fatigue and high blood pressure, and that particular situation must have brought them all out. Now Dr. Michele de Rosa and his colleagues at the University of Naples in Italy have added a new condition to the list: male infertility.

In a study published in the May 2003 edition of the journal Human Reproduction, Dr. De Rosa and his colleagues looked at the sperm of 170 men aged 23-62 from January 2000 to January 2002.

Toll booth collectors

Eighty-five men in the study group collected tolls on the roads (think Nichols toll plaza), each working shifts at least six hours long. The other 85 men who made up the control group lived and worked in the same area but were exposed to "normal levels" of pollution. In other words, they didn't spend all day inhaling exhaust fumes.

Researchers also took samples of environmental pollutants such as carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide. They also measured the levels of lead in the air and compared it with the level of lead circulating in the bloodstream.

Less active sperm

What Dr. De Rosa and his colleagues found was that the sperm of the men who worked at toll booths wasn't as active as the sperm of the control group. Previous studies have already shown that prolonged exposure to lead adversely affects sperm, so it wasn't really hard for De Rosa et al. to reach the same conclusions.

Their conclusions were backed by the fact that the toll booth workers worked in environments that had higher levels of lead than did the control group, which explained why the levels of lead in the study group's bloodstreams were three times higher than those of the control group's. (On a side note, the study references a previous study's finding that prolonged sitting can also adversely affect sperm quality by raising the temperature in the testes, which cannot be reassuring for any male who spends a lot of time behind a desk, driving, etc.)

Considering that many men drive jeepneys, buses, tricycles and shuttles around Manila alone, not to mention how many others spend several hours trying to get from one place to another via public transportation, I find myself wondering whether or not the results of this study are actually plausible. If prolonged exposure to exhaust fumes makes sperm unhappy, shouldn't commuters have fewer children than those who choose to get around by car?

That's not an easy statistic to prove though.

Less commuters?

In the meantime, will these findings make men less likely to commute, or at least try to find ways to spend less time inhaling exhaust fumes? Will there be an increase in sales of so-called muscle cars that may supplement the testosterone levels of those who feel their commutes are draining them? Will fashion designers have to come up with a way to keep the testes from overheating—yet keep them from freezing as it is equally detrimental—for men who spend the day sitting?

Dr. De Rosa says more studies are needed to answer these questions (well, maybe not the last one) and more. He points out that studies will have to be done to see if taking the study group away from their highly polluted work environments would "rejuvenate" their sperm.

Studies could also be done to see if other job environments are equally detrimental to male fertility.

High levels

It is interesting to note that Prof. Harry Moore of Sheffield University, one of the researchers studying the effects of various chemicals on male fertility, has been quoted by BBC News Online as saying that "there is no relationship between exposure to traffic fumes and reduced fertility in men living in urban areas compared to men living in rural areas. This would suggest that men would have to be exposed to high levels before it may affect their fertility."

Unfortunately he doesn't go into more detail and explain what he means by "high levels," and such terms often have varying definitions. Still, that's a topic that'll have to be saved for another time.

"I thought I'll never celebrate another birthday after my heart attack. With my anti-cholesterol statin*, I'm looking forward to more candles to blow."

-Zenaida Fortes
Senior Accountant
Heart-attack victim

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only IF they are taken for at least 3 years, religiously.[2]
COST of statins though is a big barrier to compliance.

REFERENCES:
[1] Kjekshus et al. Reducing the risk of Coronary Events: Evidence from the Scandinavian Simvastatin Survival Study (4S) Am J Cardiol 1995; 76:64C-68C.
[2] Heart Protection Study Collaborative Group MRC/BHF Heart Protection Study of cholesterol lowering with simvastatin in 20,536 high-risk individuals: a randomized placebo controlled trial. The Lancet 2002 July; 360 (9326): 7-22.

* This class of drug is approved for sale by BFAD as a prescription drug and should be bought only with a prescription.

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New approach to old diseases

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE CONTINUING scourge of "old" diseases such as tuberculosis, viral hepatitis and type 2 diabetes as well as new health threats such as multidrug-resistant TB, AIDS and SARS are some of the issues more than 5,000 Filipino medical practitioners, specialists, subspecialists and paramedical staff members, therapists and nurses will discuss during the annual convention of the Philippine College of Physicians from May 6 to 9.

The convention will also tackle topics on the changing paradigms in heart failure treatment, cancer screening methods and the hazards of air travel.

Expected to draw animated discussion is the topic on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. Specialists from the World Health Organization and the Department of Health will tackle the topic on May 9.

But tuberculosis should command greater attention and fear than SARS, said pulmonologist Dr. Cecile Z. Tady, president of the Philippine College of Physicians.

"If we are afraid of numbers, TB is still one of the top causes of morbidity and mortality," said Tady.

Southeast Asia has the biggest burden of TB cases, with around three million per year. The Philippines ranks 8th in the world, with more than 50,000 registered cases of TB.

OLD
Diseases
StephB.

ILLUSTRATION. STEPH BRAVO

Tady said infectious diseases can be prevented through personal hygiene, which is one of the convention's main points.

"It boils down to hygiene. Banning spitting on the ground is a good thing. Covering our mouth while coughing or sneezing and washing hands often should help us prevent these diseases (from spreading)," Tady said.

Also to be discussed are the newest advances in the battle against arthritis and obstructive lung diseases as well as the continuing importance of general physicians.

"Family physicians are your friends and your advisers. Rather than go directly to surgeons or subspecialists, your internists are there (to answer your questions on your health)," said Tady.

Is RP ready to prevent SARS spread?

By Khristine Estrada
Contributor

IT has been more than three weeks since the Department of Health confirmed the first SARS case in the country. Needless to say, it created panic and paranoia among us. In just a few months, SARS became synonymous with the plague.

If someone has been exposed to the disease, it can take anywhere from two to 10 days for symptoms to show. The initial indication of infection is a fever 38 degrees Celsius or higher. Chills, headache, muscle soreness and a general feeling of discomfort are also common.

"It's most unlikely to be SARS if there's no fever," says Dr.Camilo Roa Jr., one of the country's leading pulmonologists.

A dry, unproductive cough also develops. It can be accompanied by or eventually result in hypoxemia, a condition characterized by a reduced concentration of oxygen in the blood. Approximately 10 to 20 percent of infected patients require some type of assistance in breathing—either through intubation or mechanical ventilation.

SARS appears to be primarily spread by close person-to-person contact. Most SARS cases involved people who cared for or lived with someone with SARS or had direct contact with infectious material from a person who has SARS.

More research is needed to identify a cure for SARS. For now, standard precautions especially for healthcare workers may go a long way in preventing SARS. Suggested precautions include:

- Careful attention to hand hygiene before and after attending to a patient.
- Use of eye protection and surgical mask. Surgical mask (preferably the N95 type) should be used in outpatient health-care settings especially during transport of patients.
- Use of gown and gloves for contact with the patient or their environment.
- Immediate notification of infection control personnel if a person with SARS is hospitalized.

For the public, usual precautions include washing the hands often and well, especially after blowing the nose or using the bathroom. Cover your mouth and nose with tissue when you sneeze or cough. Keep the house clean, especially rooms which are frequently used like the bathroom.

Dr. Roa allays the fear of the public regarding the actual risk of getting infected with the disease.

"The public should not panic since the disease is rare in a community setting," says Dr. Roa. "Case fatality risk of those who went on to develop pneumonia is only 5 percent, which is much lower than the common community acquired pneumonia in the elderly."

To update doctors about this disease, the Philippine College of Physicians in cooperation with the Philippine Society of Microbiology and Infectious Disease will sponsor a symposium about SARS as part of, the PCP's three-day annual convention. It will be held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel on May 9.

The symposium, "Are We Ready for SARS?" will feature Dr. Jean-Marc Olivé of the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office, who will talk on "SARS: The WHO Perspective." Other speakers include Dr. Consorcia Lim-Quizon who will talk about the SARS situation in the Philippines and Dr. Mediadora Saniel who will discuss SARS clinical management guidelines.

(Khristine Estrada is a member of the FAME Health Bureau.)

PCP and PHA: Golden societies

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

TWO major medical societies in the country, the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) and the Philippine Heart Association, turned "gold" this year and last year, respectively. Both are nonstock, nonprofit societies silently doing their share in ensuring high professional standards among their members and helping provide reasonable access to adequate health care especially to our underprivileged countrymen in remote areas.

The PCP, an umbrella organization of all internal medicine (IM) specialties, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year with Dr. Cecil Tady as outgoing president and Dr. Vic Velez as incoming president. My favorite husband-and-wife protégés, Doctors Willie and Liza Ong, took great pains in coming out with an excellent coffee-table book depicting the history of the PCP.

The PCP is the only association of internal medicine specialists in the land. As Willie puts it, in many cases an internist is the so-called "captain of the ship," handling tough decisions on patient care. Such a unique role gives this association great potential to influence the course of Philippine medicine.

Although an internist is trained to handle all cases of the "internal organs," he is usually a subspecialist also. An internist who focuses on heart cases is called a cardiologist; one who mainly treats lung problems is a pulmonologist. One on stomach problems is a gastroenterologist; on cancer cases, an oncologist; on kidney disorders, a nephrologist; and on diabetes, thyroid and other metabolic disorders, an endocrinologist.

General internists

There are still general internists who handle most IM cases. When a patient has multiple problems, he might be better off seeing a general internist instead of hopping from one specialist to another for each of his internal organ problems. Usually, general internists refer patients to subspecialists in more complicated cases or when more sophisticated diagnostic tests are required.

Sometimes the patient can't understand why an internist, who's already supposed to be a specialist, still needs to refer him to other subspecialists.

Time was when doctors were jacks of all trades called physician-surgeons, treating every problem from the common colds to fat cysts and threatened abortions. With advanced medical know-how and technology, it's virtually impossible for a doctor to know everything, hence specialization and further subspecialization have become necessary.

5-decade story

The PCP story spans five decades. It began in the early 1950s with 20 internists who had the guts to form a society at a time when the norm was to be a nonmember. Dr. Gonzalo Austria's group struggled during the rest of the '50s, going through a gestational period.

By the 1960s, dynamic PCP leaders dared to envision the PCP as leading a federation of societies. The PCP tried to wield control over six specialty societies. With only a little over a hundred members, the PCP persisted in its dream of becoming the internists' gatekeeper, establishing a Specialty Accreditation Board where all other internists would have to pass through.

The PCP persevered in its vision, to the extent of getting every potential detractor into the society as a fellow, using a grandfather's clause.

The PCP's membership and authority gradually increased—from 100 members in the '60s, to 444 in the '80s, to an astonishing 5,000 in 2002.

Today, this "mother organization" has amalgamated 13 specialty societies and has reached unheard-of power and prestige.

Biggest component society

Speaking of specialty societies, the Philippine Heart Association (PHA) is one of the biggest, if not the biggest, component society of the PCP. All cardiologists in the country are PHA members and they need to be PCP diplomates before they can apply for fellowship in the PHA.

A diplomate is one who has passed academic examinations and other requirements of the society usually given by its specialty boards. A fellow is an honorary title awarded to the society's members who have complied with all the requirements and who have earned the respect of their peer specialists.

The PHA's golden anniversary celebration last year was spearheaded by its president, Dr. Annette Borromeo.

As part of its annual convention this year, the PHA is sponsoring the concert "Straight from the Heart" at the Edsa Shangri-La on May 29. Gynna Gagelonia, PHA media relations officer, assures everyone that it's going to be an enchanting evening of songs and fun under the helm of director Al Quinn.

The concert features the Apo, Bert Nievera, Hajji Alejandro, John Lesaca, Jon Santos, Leah Navarro, Maso Diez, Marcy Estrella, Richard Merck, Willie Nepomuceno and several others.

"PHA is awed by the artists' generosity in offering to perform for free. We never expected this," Dr. Borromeo said.

Ramy Diez, PHA vice president for external affairs and Dr. Edgardo Ortiz, PHA immediate past president, conceptualized and co-chaired the project.

Call the PHA secretariat at 929-1161 or 929-1166 for reservations.

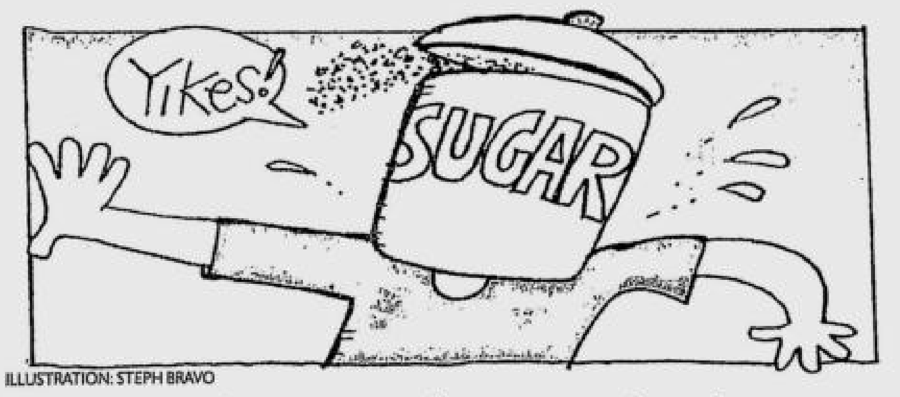

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

More facts about diabetes

By Joy A. Fontanilla, MD
Contributor

DIABETES mellitus (DM) is a worldwide epidemic and the global rates of the disease are multiplying. The World Health Organization estimates that 300 million people worldwide will have diabetes by the year 2025. If you've ever had a loved one go blind, lose his/her kidneys or have a leg amputated because of diabetes then you would find these figures truly alarming.

DM is a metabolic disorder characterized by high blood sugar levels. Normally, the food we eat is digested and converted into glucose, the body's main fuel source. Glucose needs to get into the cells for the body to be able to use it for growth and energy.

Insulin, which is produced by the pancreas, is needed for this process.

In diabetes, however, the pancreas produces little or no insulin and/or the cells do not respond appropriately to the insulin that is present. Glucose builds up in the blood, leading to long-term damage to various organs such as the eyes, kidneys, nerves, heart and blood vessels.

The most common form of DM is type 2 diabetes, previously known as adult-onset or noninsulin-dependent diabetes. About 90 to 95 percent of people with DM have this type. About a third of them don't even know they have the disease. More than 50 percent of newly diagnosed type 2 DM patients already have coronary heart disease or blockages in their heart arteries. They are three to four times more likely to have a heart attack than people without DM and about half of these attacks are fatal.

People with type 2 DM are also more likely to have dyslipidemia, or abnormalities in their blood lipid or cholesterol levels. Patients with type 2 diabetes can have high levels of "bad" cholesterol, low levels of "good" cholesterol and high levels of triglycerides. "Bad" cholesterol can lump together and clog up one's arteries.

Every attempt should be made to diagnose DM early to prevent its devastating complications. A simple test is to check the fasting blood sugar. Testing for cholesterol levels can likewise be easily performed.

People who should be tested for type 2 DM are those who have a family history of diabetes, are overweight, 45 years and above, have high blood pressure, have dyslipidemia, have previously been identified as having slightly elevated blood sugar levels, or have a history of diabetes during pregnancy or have given birth to babies over nine pounds.

In addition, people who have symptoms of high blood sugar such as fatigue, dizziness, nausea, excessive urination, unusual thirst, weight loss, blurred vision, frequent infections and slow healing of wounds or sores should have their blood sugar levels checked.

Dr. Augusto Litonjua, founding president of the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism, will discuss new developments in the understanding of diabetes during a plenary session at the 33rd annual convention of the Philippine College of Physicians at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel on May 8.

(Dr. Fontanilla is a consultant endocrinologist at FortMed Clinic and the Asian Hospital.)

Facing the toxic challenge

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

SARS, pollution, health crises—these persist in dirty, unsanitary, toxic surroundings.

Our country is not exactly a paragon of cleanliness, and with the specter of toxic waste (such as the mining disaster in the Boac River in Marinduque, mining in Mounts Diwata and Diwalwal in Compostela Valley, and the dumping of toxic waste in the former US air base in Clark), things are bound to get worse.

Last month, the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), the highest advisory body in science matters, conducted a workshop to meet this challenge. Academician Asuncion K. Raymundo, director of the Institute of Biological Sciences at UP Los Baños, spearheaded the workshop.

It's about time. According to NAST president Perla Santos-Ocampo, "Data from the Environment Management Bureau state that from 1996 to 1998 alone, about 34 million metric tons of hazardous wastes were generated by different industries here. It was only in 1999 when Philippine authorities discovered that Japan was dumping its medical wastes here. And we are just realizing the legacy of toxic and hazardous wastes that the US bases have left behind. One very alarming occurrence is the high incidence of children born with abnormalities and impaired intelligence in the communities near the former bases. This may be primarily due to the contamination of groundwater with high levels of PCBs, HCBs, dieldrin, among others."

Laws on toxic waste

Don't we have laws concerning toxic waste? Of course we do.

According to Dr. Santos-Ocampo, "Republic Act 6969 of 1990, the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act, characterized hazardous wastes based on their toxicity (or poisonous, carcinogenic or mutagenic effect on humans and other organisms), ignitability (creating fire under certain conditions, such as friction-sensitive substances like solvents), corrosivity (acidic or basic, capable of corroding metals by chemical action which can damage living tissue), and reactivity (instability under normal conditions and capability to undergo violent changes without detonating, or reacting violently with water and creating spontaneous explosive mixtures like toxic gases and fumes)."

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

A big issue is money. In wealthier nations, toxic waste cleanups get a huge chunk of the budget. For instance, in the US this can cost as much as $1 trillion! Since we don't have such deep pockets, we have to find alternative ways of dealing with such waste.

One promising area is bioremediation. According to Dr. Santos-Ocampo, "The use of bioremediation is a viable alternative for a developing country like us. It is cheaper, sustainable and helpful in reducing environmental stress."

Alternative solutions

During the workshop, researchers discussed possible solutions. The resulting summary information is culled from NAST staffer Aristotle Carandang's report, "Facing the Toxic Challenge."

One solution can be the harnessing of plants as biological agents to mitigate heavy metal pollution. Doctors Edgardo Principe and Nina M. Cadiz of the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau-DENR and Institute of Biological Sciences in UP Los Baños, respectively, focused on "phytoremediation," a new technology which uses green plants to clean contaminated soils to render toxic ions harmless.

How? Green plants root out heavy metals and reduce the movement of contaminants by adsorbing the compounds to their roots. Aside from being cheap and safe, plants make our environment beautiful and improve soil conditions.

Another solution can be chemical reduction reaction. Drs. Leni Quirit, Phytias Espino and James Villanueva of the Institute of Chemistry in UP Diliman discussed this treatment process, which involves a chemical reduction of organic compounds to methane, hydrochloric acid and other low molecular weight hydrocarbons.

What is the benefit of such reduction? The process applies also to organic contaminants and prevents the entry of oxygen, thus dioxins and related harmful compounds do not even get a chance to form in the first place.

Still another solution is bioremediation using microorganisms. Dr. Wilfredo Barraquio of the Institute of Biology in UP Diliman talked about the possibility of using microorganisms to clean up toxic waste. Denitrifying bacteria are respiratorily and metabolically flexible, easy to handle, and readily available (such as in phenol and readily developed commercial inoculants).

Effectiveness

How effective is bioremediation really? Let us look at a success story.

In 1985, the community of Hanahan in South Carolina experienced severe fuel contamination. According to Carandang, "Nutrients were delivered to contaminated soils through infiltration galleries (the source of the nutrients), contaminated ground water was removed by a series of extraction wells, and the arduous task of monitoring contamination levels began. By the end of 1993, contamination in this residential area was reduced by 75 percent. Nearer to the infiltration galleries, the results were even better. The ground waster that was once highly contaminated is now free from any form of detectable contamination."

Perhaps we can start bioremediating the Pasig River.

50 Years
Physicians Caring for the Philippines

PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
33rd ANNUAL CONVENTION

EDSA Shangri-la Hotel ◆ May 6 - 9, 2003

"Internal Medicine : Then and Now"

Office of the President of the Philippines
Malacañan, Palace
Manila
6 May 2003

Warmest felicitations to the Philippine College of Physicians on its 33rd Annual Convention and Commemoration of Golden Jubilee Year.

I congratulate the Philippine College of Physicians for its dedication and hard work in improving the health of our people. We need to strengthen our partnership in making all Filipinos live healthy, productive and fulfilling lives. I encourage you to persevere in the efforts toward world-class medical competencies and services that take advantage of the vast opportunities for healthcare in a changing world.

Quality and affordable healthcare services remain vital indicators of the progress of our nation and are therefore crucial in our efforts to win the war on poverty. I urge you to strongly support our vital health programs that promote the total health of our people, especially the poor and underprivileged. May you always pursue your chosen profession with a deep commitment to professional excellence and with selfless concern for your fellowmen.

I wish the success of your convention and may it help you find the answers to challenging health problems and issues.

MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Department of Health
Manila

My sincerest greetings to the **Philippine College of Physicians (PCP)** on the holding of their **33rd Annual Convention and 50th year Anniversary.**

I congratulate PCP for its 50 golden years of meritorious service to the public. Since your inception in the health sector, your significant contributions to the country's health system have greatly improved the health and quality of life of every Filipino.

The Department of Health commends the members of PCP for their dedication and support to the government's efforts to provide accessible, quality and affordable health care to all.

I exhort you to continue working vigorously to attain a higher standard of work ethics for a more progressive towards the achievement of a strong and a healthy republic.

Mabuhay po kayong lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D. MSc.
Secretary of Health

Philippine Medical Association
Quezon City
6 May 2003

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association, we are glad to convey special good wishes to the officers and members of the Philippine College of Physicians on the occasion of its 33rd Annual Convention and the commemoration of its Golden Jubilee Year.

Hardly has the new millennium passed beyond its threshold, when already a number of new and virulent infections and old and festering killer diseases have been on the upswing causing tremendous distress in the medical profession. Thus, we at the PMA hail this confab for its relevance and timeliness in addressing these threats. We thank the men and women at the helm of the PCP for their pursuit of excellence in the practice of internal medicine in the country. May we also congratulate you for a well-laid scientific program, anchored on the theme, "Internal Medicine: Then and Now". The PMA joins you in looking forward to an unqualified success of this important convention.

Please join us in rallying to the PMA Annual Convention and the PMA 100th Anniversary theme, "100 Years of the PMA in Nation Building – Service to the People for a Healthy Philippines," by continuing the delivery of effective and affordable healthcare to our people. At the same time, we invite you to celebrate with us on September 15, 2003, the PMA 100th Anniversary.

Congratulations. Mabuhay ang Philippine College of Physicians!

GIL C. FERNANDEZ, M.D.
President

Philippine College of Physicians
One San Miguel Avenue
Pasig City

2003 will mark our jubilee year. Our 50th year is certainly a season of thanksgiving and cause for celebration, for all that was, is, and what is yet to be.

The Officers and Members of the Board of Regents join me in extending this hearty invitation to all members of the College, our 11 chapters, 13 component and affiliate societies, 83 accredited hospitals, partners in health care, members of the medical profession as well as allied health professionals in celebrating our golden anniversary in 2003 with the theme "50 Years of PCP: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow".

The convention theme is "Internal Medicine: Then and Now". The decision to stay at EDSA Shangri-la was arrived at following a careful and extensive study of options available that would address our convention requirements. Certainly, the feedback and opinions expressed were also taken into consideration. More importantly, future plans for the College and meeting membership needs were a factor in the decision process. Rest assured that every effort is being made to serve the best interests of the organization and its membership.

The Organizing Committee headed by Dr. Vicente Jose Y. Velez deserves our encouragement, support and gratitude for accepting the challenge to spearhead preparations for this major medical event that is the highlight of our fiscal year.

We look forward to your active and wholehearted involvement in the activities we are planning for the next year. With thanksgiving, we also look forward to another 50 years of healthy and fruitful service to our country and mankind.

CECIL Z. TADY, M.D., FPCP
President

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, it is with great pleasure that I extend this invitation for you to join us in the 33rd Annual Convention of the College on May 6-9, 2003 in Manila.

The Convention theme: **"Internal Medicine:Then and Now"** is most appropriate because we will also commemorate the Golden Anniversary (50 years) of the College. The topics that were chosen highly considered the topics suggested by more than 800 members who submitted their feedback from the last annual convention. In addressing the problems of SRO capacities, space management and utilization of meeting rooms, the Scientific and Physical Arrangements Committees, being creative in finding solutions and exploring new possibilities in venue use, decided that all **Plenary Sessions** will be held in the mornings and that of the **Breakout Sessions** in the afternoons.

We have prepared for you **6 Sunrise Sessions** which include 3 topics on Clinical Skills Enhancement, **6 Plenary Sessions, 12 Convention Symposia, 2 Medical Informatics Sessions** consisting of 4 topics, **4 Algorithm Sessions, 4 Interactive Sessions, 4 Oral Free Communication Sessions** (case report, meta-analysis, retrospective and prospective studies), **3 daily Poster Sessions, 16 slots for Lunch Satellite Symposia and 3 slots for Dinner Satellite Symposia.** We have decided to hold the **Fellowship Night** separately from the **Closing Ceremonies,** considering that the Golden Anniversary of the College will be commemorated during the convocation. The Socials Committee has dubbed the affair as **"50 Years of PCP: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow".** Come and join us in this celebration designed especially for the members.

We thank you for your active involvement and support for this collegial activity. Feel free to communicate with us your thoughts and suggestions so that we can further improve our services to you and the College.

VICENTE JOSE Y. VELEZ, M.D., FPCP
Vice President
and Chair, Organizing Committee

My dear Colleagues,

Fifty golden years have passed and bore witness to rapid evolution in Internal Medicine, changing perspectives, struggles and hardships, but in the end, PCP has withstood the test of time. It is but rightful for us to look back and see the footprints of Internal Medicine practice several decades ago and how management techniques have been brought to obsolescence by newer concepts.

How surrogate experience may be revalidated or corrected by evidence; and how quality of life may be challenged by a harder endpoint of increased survival. In the 33rd annual meeting in May 6-9, 2003, PCP will once again be put into the limelight as how it was **Then . . . and where it is Now.** The Scientific Committee has committed to the recent survey results and has come up with a line up of excellent and choice topics. We are focused on changing concepts and paradigms in the practice of Internal Medicine, honing clinical skills, keeping abreast with information technology, latest algorithms and likewise, giving a glimpse of the future as well.

My colleagues, you are cordially invited to join us celebrate the Golden Anniversary of the PCP through this golden opportunity of learning.

My best wishes and warm regards.

JORGE A. SISON, M.D., FPCP
Chair, Scientific Committee
33rd Annual Convention

2003 COLLEGE AWARDEES

MOST DISTINGUISHED PHYSICIAN AWARD

Alendry P. Caviles, Jr.,MD,FPCP

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Alberto T. Chua, MD, FPCP

TIME	May 06 (Tuesday)	May 07 (Wednesday)	May 08 (Thursday)	May 09 (Friday)
7:00		**Sunrise Sessions** Clinical Skills: Interpreting X-ray and Ultrasound for the Internists *Isla I* Medical Residents Forum *Isla II* Can We Delay Kidney Disease Progression? *Isla III*	**Sunrise Sessions** Clin. Skills: Interpreting CT Scan & MRI *Isla I* Detecting & Managing Common Skin Lesions *Isla II* What Constitutes Medical Malpractice? *Isla III*	**Sunrise Sessions** Clin. Skills: Interpreting and Managing Acid-Base and Electrolyte Problems *Isla I* New Concepts in Adult Immunization *Isla II* Impairment and Disability Evaluation *Isla III*
7:30				
8:00	REGISTRATION Annual PCP President's Cup Golf Tournament	POSTER SESSION I	POSTER SESSION II	POSTER SESSION III
8:30	RESEARCH WORKSHOP FOR COORDINATORS EBM and CAT - *Garden Ballroom* PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT - *Lubang*	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK
9:00		**PLENARY SESSION I** Viral Hepatitis: A Continuing Scourge *Dr. Diana A. Payawal* *Isla Ballroom*	**PLENARY SESSION III** Evolving Concepts on Type 2 Diabetes *Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua* *Isla Ballroom*	**PLENARY SESSION V** Changing Paradigms In Heart Failure Treatment *Dr. Romeo A. Divinagracia* *Isla Ballroom*
9:30				
9:45		**PLENARY SESSION II** Quest for Rational Cancer Screening Methods *Dr. Beatrice J. Tiangco* *Isla Ballroom*	**A.G. SISON MEMORIAL LECTURE** *Isla Ballroom*	**PLENARY SESSION VI** Conquering Tuberculosis: The Picture, the Mirror and the Crystal Ball *Dr. Rodrigo Luis C. Romulo* *Isla Ballroom*
10:00				
10:30		VISIT THE EXHIBITS	**PLENARY SESSION IV** The Curse of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome: The Philippine and Global Perspectives *Dr. Rossana A. Ditangco* *Isla Ballroom*	VISIT THE EXHIBITS
11:00		**Lunch Satellite Symposium** I Unilab - Westmont *Isla I* II Unilab - Biomedis *Isla II* III Pfizer *Isla III* IV Novartis *Palawan* V Sanofi Synthelabo *Batanes* VI Roche *Garden Ballroom*		**Lunch Satellite Symposium** XIII Abbott *Isla I* XIV Merck Sharpe & Dohme *Isla II* XV Merck *Isla III* ***Latebreaker Symposium: Are We Prepared for SARS?*** *(organized in cooperation with Phil. Society of Microbiology and Infectious Disease)* *Garden Ballroom*
11:15				
11:30			**Lunch Satellite Symposium** VII Servier *Isla I* VIII Unilab-Therapharma *Isla II* IX Pfizer-Pharmacia *Isla III* X Bayer - GSK *Palawan* XI Novartis *Batanes* XII Merck Sharpe & Dohme *Garden Ballroom*	
12:00				
12:30		**Breakout Sessions I** CS I - Risk Factors for Renal Disease *Isla I* Algorithm I: New Concepts in Acute Febrile Illness *Garden Ballroom* CS II - Diagnostic/Therapeutic GI Endoscopy: Then & Now *Isla III* CS III - Aging as a Medical Problem *Palawan* Oral Free Communication I : Case Reports *Batanes* Interactive I: Managing High Risk Hypertensives *Boracay*		**Breakout Sessions III** CS VII - Hormone Replacement Therapy Hope or Hype? *Isla I* Algorithm III: Acute Exacerbations of COPD *Garden Ballroom* CS VIII - Hazards of Air Travel and How to Avoid Them *Palawan* CS IX - COX 2: From Arthritis to Cancer Prevention *Isla III* Informatics : a. Getting the Most from your PDA's b. Statistical Programs for Doctors *Lubang* Oral Free Communication III: Retrospective Studies *Batanes* Interactive III: Managing the Metabolic Syndrome *Boracay*
1:00				
1:30	**Orientation of New Members** *Isla I*			
2:00			**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING** *Isla Ballroom*	
2:30		COFFEE BREAK		COFFEE BREAK
3:00		**Breakout Sessions II** CS IV - Old Drugs, New Indications in Hematologic Diseases & other medical problems *Isla I* Algorithm II: Solving the Puzzle of Chronic Cough *Garden Ballroom* CS V - Tobacco Control - A Multidisciplinary Approach *Isla III* CS VI - Nutriceuticals in the Practice of Internal Medicine *Palawan* Oral Free Communication II : Meta-Analyses *Batanes* Interactive II: Managing Common Animal Bites *Boracay*		**Breakout Sessions IV** CS X - Occupational Hazards: How Knowledgeable Are We? *Isla I* Algorithm IV: Tracking Down Chest Pain *Garden Ballroom* CS XI - Acid-Related Disease: In Search of the Final Answer *Isla III* CS XII - Is There A Role for Alternative Med. In Our Practice *Palawan* Informatics c. Exploring the Powerpoint Program *Lubang* Oral Free Communication IV : Prospective Studies *Batanes* Interactive IV: Common Diseases of the Thyroid [illegible]
3:30			**PCP MEDICAL QUIZ CONTEST** **Grand Finals** *Garden Ballroom*	
4:00				
4:30	Opening of Exhibits			
5:00	**OPENING CEREMONIES** **Induction of New Affiliate Members & Certification of New Diplomates** *Isla Ballroom*	**Dinner Satellite Symposium** I Unilab - Therapharma *Isla II and III* II Pharmacia *Garden Ballroom*		**CLOSING CEREMONIES** **Induction of New Fellows** *Isla Ballroom*
5:30			**FELLOWSHIP NIGHT** **"50 Years of PCP: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"** *Isla Ballroom*	
6:00				
6:30				
7:00				

SPECIAL MEETINGS :

- Annual Meeting of Accredited Hospitals - 6 May 2003, Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. *Palawan*
- Annual Meeting of PCP Chapters & Component/Affiliate Societies - 7 May 2003, Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. -2:00 p.m. *Summer Palace Restaurant*
- Alumni meetings will be scheduled on May 7, 2003 - Wednesday

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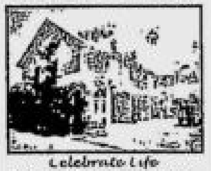

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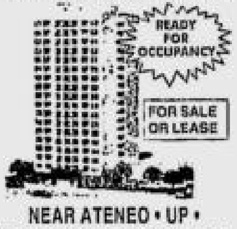

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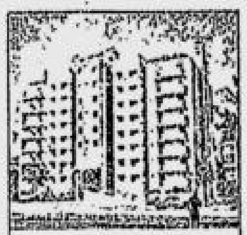

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SOUTH GREENHTS VILL 300m² fenced P3,833/m² Vic Gigie 8903461 loc 25/27

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

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RANCHO VISTA SUBD 613/m² P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

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COMML/RESDL

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LOT

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COMML/RESDL

PARANAQUE

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2% w/o Taking Car 6567685

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Tel #: 8104901-10; Fax #: 8186807; Website: www.pdic.gov.ph; E-mail: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE – GOODS, SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites Health Maintenance Organizations in the Philippines to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to participate in the bidding for its Health Maintenance Program for the period, July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PDIC Health Maintenance Program
Location	2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Estimated Number of Enrollees	Principal Members: 750
Approved Budget of the Contract	P10,395,000.00
Minimum Requirement	HMOs whether 100% local or at least 60% owned by citizens of the Philippines which satisfy the following minimum requirements: • partnerships and corporations duly organized under the laws of the Phils. • cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Devt. Authority Bidders must have at least five (5) years experience in the business and with at least 10 corporate clients in the last 5 years.

The Application for Eligibility shall be made available to interested/prospective bidders from April 28 to May 2, 2003, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM while the Bid Documents shall be made available to eligible bidders from May 16 – 21, 2003, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat, Ground Floor, PDIC Bldg., 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.

Criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and post-qualification shall be on non-discretionary pass/fail criteria. Only eligible bidders shall be considered for bid awards.

The eligibility screening of bidders, evaluation of bids and awarding of contract shall be governed by pertinent provisions of RA 9184.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informality or minor defect, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

(Sgd.) JESUS FIDELINO D. CLARIZA
Chairman

(PDI--April 26 & May 3, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
MUNICIPALITY OF POZORRUBIO
Province of Pangasinan

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date : May 3, 2003
World Bank Loan No. : 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the Construction of *Public Market Phase II, Pozorrubio, Pangasinan.* Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The *Municipality of Pozorrubio, Pangasinan* invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the construction of *Public Market II having Two (2) structural steel buildings with 204 stalls with provisions for drainage and electrical mains.*
3. Bidding documents may be purchased from *May 4, 2003 to June 4, 2003 at Mayor's Office, 2nd Flr., Municipal Hall, Municipality of Pozorrubio, Pangasinan* upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *P8,000.00* or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of One Hundred Twenty (120) days after bid opening and must be accompanied by security of *P650,000.00 (Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos)* in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the *Mayor's Office, 2nd Flr. Municipal Hall, Municipality of Pozorrubio, Pangasinan* on or before *1:00 p.m., June 4, 2003* at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held at *10:00 A.M., May 21, 2003* at the *Bulwagan ng Sangguniang Bayan, 2nd Flr., Municipal Hall, Municipality of Pozorrubio, Pangasinan.*

HON. ARTEMIO Q. CHAN
Municipal Mayor/BAC Chair
Pozorrubio, Pangasinan

(PDI–May 3, 2003)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

CARPENTER 8345973

INVENTORY CLERK ACCT BACKGROUND 5223959

FEMALE

3F BKPR ACTG GRAD 21-30 K&ASSOC STA. CRUZ MLA 2558656

TINDERA STAY IN 8345973

MALE/FEMALE

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HrdStf 0919-2535623 Glenda

HRDSTF LEAH 09193352395 LEAH

MASSEURS, THERAPISTS at SPA 865 & BODY CARE CENTER BALIUAG, BULACAN 09175171036/ 09177542231

Ofc Staff 09165414753 JM

PROFESSOR NURSING, COMPUTER, HRM (w/ Masteral) BSE, BSEED TEACHERS, PRINCIPAL-Secondary 9265049 9263930 9263931

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ROEL V. PABLO is no longer connected with **Freeway Motors**, the company is not liable for any transaction made after **April 1, 2003.**

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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T633-1073

SUPERVISOR 0920-2694256 MS. GIFT

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BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
dti TRADE & INDUSTRY

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **TEI, INC.** with office address at **Energizer Compound, Mayflower Street, EDSA Central, Mandaluyong City** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **New Service Provider of Energy Conservation Activity (Building Energy Management Systems)** with project site at **same office address stated above** has been officially accepted on **April 28, 2003** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 28th day of April 2003.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI – May 3, 2003)

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
dti TRADE & INDUSTRY

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **UNIBAG MANUFACTURING CORPORATION** with office address at **Barangay Soro-Soro Karsada, Batangas City** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book 1 of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **New Export Producer of Women Synthetic Sacks/Bags and Cloth** at a capacity of **1,800 MTPY** with project site at **same office address stated above** has been officially accepted on **April 25, 2003** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 25th day of April 2003.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI – May 3, 2003)

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Mandaluyong Branch
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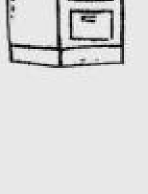

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"I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing".
Genesis 12:2

Our Dearest Mama,

Aida Valdés y Abad Santos

(April 27, 1926 to May 1, 2003)

Peacefully joined our Lord on the 1st of May, 2003 at the age of 77.

Her loving husband Amb. Carlos J. Valdés; Children, Gabby, Butch, Nena, Binky, Chona, Johnny, Teri, Barry, Gina, Benjie (†), and Regina; Children-in-law, Pamela, Jorge, Vic and Ricky; Grandchildren, Bea, Martin, Marga and Pilar, Itos, Anton, Angela, Stella, Joaquin, Chinito, Karissa and Kiana; Carlo, Gino, Paolo and Marco; Augusto; Andrea, Isabel and Roman; Ian, Franco, Benji and Ida; Karl; Quintin and Lope; Great-grandchildren, Dino and Nicolo, and the rest of her family, request pious readers to remember Mama in their prayers, for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, New Manila, Q.C., Holy Mass at 7:00 P.M.
Funeral Mass will be on Monday, May 5, 2003 at 9:00 A.M.
Cremation will follow and thereafter her remains will be transferred to our San Juan residence.

"Behold my servant whom I have chosen my beloved in whom I delight".
Matthew 12:18

Message of Thanks

For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrows...
For praying with us and for us...
For the Mass cards and messages of sympathy and condolence...
For the beautiful flowers to express compassion...
For joining us in our nightly vigils...
For attending the Masses...
For thinking of us in our hour of grief...
For all that you have done to console our hearts...

Our sincerest gratitude
From the family of the late
ROSALINA MACAPUGAY VDA. DE CLARIDADES
who peacefully joined her Creator
on April 18, 2003.

Our Dearly Beloved "BUTCH"

FELIPE VILLANUEVA VILLA-REAL III

peacefully passed away on May 1st, 2003 at the age of 41
at Saint Patrick's Hospital Center, Batangas City.

He is survived by his devoted wife **PAULITA ILUSTRE**, young son **PATRICK ANDREW**, parents **TITO** and **TERRY**, brother **CHITO** and **ANNALIZA MORTEL**, sister **CHING** and **JAKE PERALTA** and sister **MAIAM** and **RAFFY ANTONIO**, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, in-laws, cousins, other relatives and friends who request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His mortal remains lie in state at the Filipinas Funeral Home, Batangas City, until 3:00 pm Saturday, May 3, and will be transferred to the Funeraria Paz at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, until Wednesday, May 7, 2003.

Interment will take place immediately after the 9:00 am Holy Mass on May 7, 2003.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

In Loving Memory on the First Death Anniversary
of our dearly beloved Manang

MINERVA "Menchie" MALLARI – DE LAS ALAS

who died in the Grace of our Lord on May 4, 2002
Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches
on May 4, 2003

St. James the Great Church Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City	8:00 AM
St. Jerome & Sta. Susana Church Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City	8:30 AM
St. Paul Church Matina, Davao City	9:00 AM
Our Lady of the Assumption Church Claremont, California	8:15 AM

Arch. JOSE V. MARQUEZ, JR.

"A Dear Husband and Loving Father"

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 2, 2003 at the age of 60.

His loving wife **EMCY**; children and children-in-law **ERICK** and **CAMILLE**, **JOSELYN**, **HAZEL** and **JEFF**; grandchildren **HONEY** and **CARL**; and relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Sta. Ana Church Mortuary Chapel, Sta. Ana, Manila.

Interment schedule will be announced later.

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Telefax 651-0756

Helping in the Grief of Many People

INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
ROMAN T. OLAYVAR	May 03	3:00 P.M.	Holy Gardens Valley Memorial Park Antipolo City	56 M.L. Quezon St., Antipolo City
SAMUEL DC DE LEON, SR.	May 04	1:00 P.M.	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Taytay, Rizal	Summer Green Subd. Phase 1, Blk 1, Lot 1, San Andres, Cainta
ROLANDO E. DEL ROSARIO	May 04	1:00 P.M.	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Angono, Rizal	# 66 Lt. Aguinaldo St., Kalayaan, Angono, Rizal

www.holygardens.com
E-mail address: sales@holygardens.com

"GOOD NIGHT MOMMY..."

LOVINGLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED ON HER FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

BARBARA V. MEDINA

December 4, 1935 – May 3, 2002

Her family and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Mass will be offered at Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City at 8:00 a.m.

DEATH NOTICES

LUCITA S. TEOPE
Joined her Creator on April 29, 2003
at the age of 62.

Her remains lie in state at Luisiana, Laguna.
Interment will be on Sunday, May 4, 2003
at Luisiana Cemetery.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

ALICIA GALCERAN BARTOLO

Has joined her husband "Bert" and peacefully rests
in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord
on April 28, 2003 at the age of 75.

Her loving children **Bong**, **Roroy**, **Bro. Cit**, **Mimi**, **Nonot**, **Maru**, **Butch & Grace**; sons-in-law **Jun** and **Bong**; grandchildren **Marielle**, **Marc**, **Mitch**, **Mic-Mic** and **Alvin**; her sister, relatives and friends request for prayers for her eternal happiness.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, Chapel B - 8, Second Floor South Wing Building.

Interment will be on May 6, 2003 (Tuesday), 10:00 a.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque after 7:30 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

02 May 2003

EMERGENCY PURCHASE

(Canvass No. 14 – Request for Quotation)

In view of the threat of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and in accordance with Executive Order No. 201, Section 53 (b) of Republic Act No. 9184 and Section 439 of the General Auditing and Accounting Manual (GAAM), the Department of Health is urgently in need of the following **Hospital Equipment:**

54 units Blood Pressure Apparatus (Stand Type)
27 units Laryngoscope for Adult
27 units Laryngoscope for Pedia
54 units Oxygen Gauge with Humidifier
27 units Portable Pulse Oximeter
27 units Portable Suction Apparatus
54 units Stethoscope (adult)
27 units Stretcher
27 units Ventilator, Adult and Pedia
27 units X-ray Machine, 300 mA mobile high frequency
54 units Exhaust Fan

Interested suppliers are enjoined to submit their best price for the above requirements. Quotation forms, containing the detailed specifications, and other information may be secured on **May 6, 2003** from the Procurement Division, Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), 2/F Bldg. No. 26 Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, tel. no. (632) 743-83-01 local 3626 and 3627.

Price Quotations must include both unit and total prices, typewritten in both words and figures and placed in a sealed envelope together with the following documents:

1. Certified True Copy of DTI/SEC Registration
2. Certified True Copy of Mayor's Permit
3. Certified True Copy of Certificate of Accreditation

Price Quotations, containing the detailed specifications, with each page duly signed by the authorized company representative and the above-listed documents must be submitted not later than 10 AM **May 9, 2003** at the Procurement Division. Opening of sealed envelopes shall commence at 10 AM of **May 9, 2003.**

Upon receipt of the DOH Purchase Order, the company is required to deliver the goods at the DOH warehouse within a month.

Any purchase arising from the request will be subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations. It should be noted that receipt of a particular quotation does not in any way obligate the DOH to award any or any part of the items quoted therein.

The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation and to annul the process and reject all quotations of any time prior to award, without incurring any liability to the affected supplier(s) or any obligation to inform the same on the grounds of such action.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary of Health
COBAC Chairperson

(PDI–May 3 & 4, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Loan No. : 4108-PH
IFB Title : Supply and Installation of a Local Area Network
IFB No : PISU-CO/252002

1 The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost the Third Elementary Education Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of Loan to payments under the agreement(s) resulting from this IFB for the supply and installation of a Local Area Network.

2. The Department of Education now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and installation of a local area network inclusive of:
   - One year on-site maintenance.
   - Three years' hotline/online support.
   - Three years parts and labor warranty (on-site).
   - User application training (internet, email, use of shared servers etc.).
   - Training for system maintenance, administration, troubleshooting, report creation and management.

3. Bidding will be conducted using the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits* and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines* that meet the following minimum qualification stipulated in Section II. Bid Data Sheet, Instructions to Bidders (ITB) Clause 6.1 (a).

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Education and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below:

5 A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine Peso Three Thousand (PHP 3,000.00) or its equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. The method of payment will be in cash or cashier's/manager's check. The document will be available for collection by the bidders representative or, in the case of an international firm, sent by a reputable international courier on receipt of an additional payment of Philippine Peso Two Thousand (PHP 2,000.00) or its equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. **A complete set of Bidding Documents is available starting April 30, 2003.**

6. Bids must be delivered to the address shown below on or before 10:00 AM on **June 11, 2003.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price. Late bids will be rejected.

7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 10:00 AM, local time, on **June 11, 2003**, at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines, Tel. No. (+632) 632-1361 local 2115 Telefax (+632) 636-6539. Pre-bid conference will be held on **May 14, 2003**, 10:00 AM at the venue mentioned above.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary

(PDI – May 3, 5 & 8, 2003)

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www.jobmarketonline.com

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: April 8, 2003
LOAN NO.: MIYAZAWA
Contract No.: Sp01.SPTL.Mm-0338

1. The *National Power Corporation (NPC)* has received a loan from the *Miyazawa Funds* for *Zamboanga City Area 138 kV Transmission Line Project* and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract *Supply and Delivery of Transmission Line Materials for the Sangali - Pitogo 138 kV Transmission Line Project.*

2. The *National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)* administering the bidding of the said project, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of:

   Schedule I - Steel Towers, Leg/Body Extensions, Templates and Accessories

   Schedule II - Power Conductors, Aluminum-Clad Overhead Groundwire, Tower Footing Ground Wire and Accessories

   Schedule III - Insulator Assemblies, Line Materials and Hardwares

   Schedule IV - Optical Fiber Groundwire (OPGW), Tower Attachment Assemblies and Accessories.

3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the *Office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department, 2nd Floor, Building 2, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City (Zip Code 1104), Philippines, Tel./Fax Number: 921-2308.*

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting April 15, 2003 upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *ten thousand pesos (Php 10,000.00).*

5. A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals are opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive are rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals that have been submitted by qualified bidders are discussed with the bidders and the bidders are requested for full compliance. The bidders may or may not submit a supplementary price proposal, which contain the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in the technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal are opened simultaneously in public.

6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of:

   Schedule I - Forty Thousand Three Hundred US dollars (US$40,300)

   Schedule II - Seventeen Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty US dollars (US$17,720)

   Schedule III - Thirty Three Thousand Four Hundred Eighty US dollars (US$33,480)

   Schedule IV - Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety US dollars (US$11,990)

   The bid security must be included with the technical proposal.

   The deadline for the submission of bids will be on **June 17, 2003** at 1:30 p.m. at the aforementioned address. Late submissions will be rejected.

7. The technical proposals together with the bid security will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

8. The price proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals.

9. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

10. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN**
Chairman
Bids Award Committee

(PDI - May 3, 6, 14 & 22, 2003)

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and Collecting Agents

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look for Ms. Grace Wong

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: March 28, 2003
LOAN NO.: MIYAZAWA
CONTRACT NO.: SP02.CMIP.Vw-0358

1. The *National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)* has received a loan from the *Miyazawa Funds for Cebu-Mactan Interconnection Project* and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract *Design, Furnishing, Installing, Testing and Commissioning (Turn-key Basis) GIS Substation including Protection & Communication Systems and Underground Power & fiber Optic Cables.*

2. The *National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)* invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the:

   Schedule I - Design, Furnishing, Installing, Testing and Commissioning (Turn-key Basis) 138/69 kV GIS & Conventional Outdoor Substation Equipment including Protection & Communication Systems for Mandaue S/S, Mactan S/S & Banilad S/S Expansion

   Schedule II - Design, Furnishing, Installing, Testing and Commissioning (Turn-key Basis) 138 kV Underground XLPE Power Cables & Fiber Optic Cables

3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the *Office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department, 2nd Floor, Building 2, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City (Zip Code 1104), Philippines, Tel./Fax Number: 921-2308.*

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting March 28, 2003 upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *fifty-five thousand pesos (Php 55,000.00).*

5. A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals are opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive are rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals that have been submitted by qualified bidders are discussed with the bidders and the bidders are requested for full compliance. The bidders may or may not submit a supplementary price proposal, which contain the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in the technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal are opened simultaneously in public.

6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of:

   Schedule I - Three Hundred Seventy Four Thousand Three Hundred Twenty US dollars (US$374,320)

   Schedule II - Two Hundred Sixty Thousand and Forty US dollars (US$260,040)

   The bid security must be included with the technical proposal.

   The deadline for the submission of bids will be on July 15, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. at the aforementioned address. Late submissions will be rejected.

7 The technical proposals together with the bid security will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

8. The price proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals.

9. The total contract duration for each schedule is 540 calendar days.

10. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

11. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd) **WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN**
Chairman
Bids Award Committee

(PDI - May 3, 7 & 17, 2003)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 633-93-[illegible]
Direct Line: 631-96-40
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 locals 2007

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

DepEd – BNFE - 03-04-01

The Department of Education through the Bureau of Non-Formal Education is inviting all suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Printing and Delivery of Translated Basic Literacy Learning Materials. For purposes of record and in compliance with the law, the Department has an approved budget of P2.4 million for printing, delivery and administrative cost.

All interested printers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting May 5 - 16, 2003 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **May 16, 2003**, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on June 2, 2003 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI–May 3, 6 & 10, 2003)

NFA's rice contingency plans in place

NATIONAL Food Authority Administrator Arthur C. Yap assures the public that rice is accessible to all people in all parts of the country as the agency sets into motion a contingency plan under its Oplan Paghahanda.

Oplan Paghahanda is the NFA's food security preparedness program launched in February in view of the conflict between the United States and Iraq.

Yap said the agency is presently undertaking full blast milling of its palay stocks even as it has already effected the transfer of rice from high-producing areas to traditionally deficit and high consumption areas across the country.

The NFA administrator outlined these modes of action in a meeting with the National Security Council in Malacañang.

Aside from the National Capital Region, Yap identified Batanes, Benguet, Palanan, Quezon, Albay, Catanduanes, Masbate and Palawan in Luzon as critical areas in terms of securing their rice supply.

"We have undertaken full accounting of our available stocks in these areas and identified sources of additional supply as well as the speed and mode of delivery of rice to these provinces when needed," Yap said.

For Luzon, rice supply via land delivery will come from Isabela and Pangasinan in the north and in the south from Batangas which is used as a depot of rice coming from Mindoro and abroad. By sea, other sources of supply are Mindoro, Aurora province and Batangas. For the provinces that are adjacent, delivery of rice by land will only take 48 hours while delivery by sea especially for island provinces will take a minimum of five to a maximum of seven days, according to Yap.

Rice for Metro Manila will be augmented by direct importation as the Port of Manila is one of the major entry points of rice imports.

In the Visayas, critical areas identified include Cebu, Negros Occidental and Oriental, Siquijor, Northern and Southern Leyte and the three provinces of Samar. Rice supply for most of these island provinces will come from Iloilo and will be delivered by sea.

Since Cebu is also one of the country's main ports of entry for imported rice, its supply will also be augmented by direct importation. It shall also be a transhipment point for rice supply in the identified critical areas in the Visayas, Yap noted.

For the Mindanao area, among the areas identified as critical and vulnerable to supply disruption are Zamboanga City, Misamis Oriental, Davao City, General Santos, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-tawi and Maguindanao.

Rice supply for these areas will come from Zamboanga del Norte and Sur, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Southern Philippines Grains Complex and the main transhipment points for rice importation such as Cebu, Davao and General Santos.

Rice imports will also augment the rice supply of Davao and General Santos City, Yap said.

It pays to advertise.
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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CLASSIFIEDS
The HARDER-HITTING Classified Ad.
Cut and present this coupon to avail of a line ad discount for a minimum of 3 lines. One coupon per ad only.
L22402262I
This note is legal tender for all payments for line ads in the Philippine Daily Inquirer
Valid until May 31, 2003
in GMA only.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0459 Series of 2003
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

02 May 2003

EMERGENCY PURCHASE

(Canvass No. 14 – Request for Quotation)

In view of the threat of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and in accordance with Executive Order No. 201, Section 53 (b) of Republic Act No. 9184 and Section 439 of the General Auditing and Accounting Manual (GAAM), the Department of Health is urgently in need of the following **Hospital Equipment:**

54 units Blood Pressure Apparatus (Stand Type)
27 units Laryngoscope for Adult
27 units Laryngoscope for Pedia
54 units Oxygen Gauge with Humidifier
27 units Portable Pulse Oximeter
27 units Portable Suction Apparatus
54 units Stethoscope (adult)
27 units Stretcher
27 units Ventilator, Adult and Pedia
27 units X-ray Machine, 300 mA mobile high frequency
54 units Exhaust Fan

Interested suppliers are enjoined to submit their best price for the above requirements. Quotation forms, containing the detailed specifications, and other information may be secured on **May 6, 2003** from the Procurement Division, Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), 2/F Bldg. No. 26 Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, tel. no. (632) 743-83-01 local 3626 and 3627.

Price Quotations must include both unit and total prices, typewritten in both words and figures and placed in a sealed envelope together with the following documents:

1. Certified True Copy of DTI/SEC Registration
2. Certified True Copy of Mayor's Permit
3. Certified True Copy of Certificate of Accreditation

Price Quotations, containing the detailed specifications, with each page duly signed by the authorized company representative and the above-listed documents must be submitted not later than 10 AM **May 9, 2003** at the Procurement Division. Opening of sealed envelopes shall commence at 10 AM of **May 9, 2003.**

Upon receipt of the DOH Purchase Order, the company is required to deliver the goods at the DOH warehouse within a month.

Any purchase arising from the request will be subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations. It should be noted that receipt of a particular quotation does not in any way obligate the DOH to award any or any part of the items quoted therein.

The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation and to annul the process and reject all quotations of any time prior to award, without incurring any liability to the affected supplier(s) or any obligation to inform the same on the grounds of such action.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary of Health
COBAC Chairperson

(PDI-May 3 & 4, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Third Elementary Education Project

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Loan No. : 4108-PH
IFB Title : Supply and Installation of a Local Area Network
IFB No : PISU-CO/252002

1 The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost the Third Elementary Education Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of Loan to payments under the agreement(s) resulting from this IFB for the supply and installation of a Local Area Network

The Department of Education now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and installation of a local area network inclusive of:

- One year on-site maintenance.
- Three years' hotline/online support.
- Three years parts and labor warranty (on-site).
- User application training (internet, email, use of shared servers etc.).
- Training for system maintenance, administration, troubleshooting, report creation and management.

3. Bidding will be conducted using the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits* and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines* that meet the following minimum qualification stipulated in Section II. Bid Data Sheet, Instructions to Bidders (ITB) Clause 6 1 (a)

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Education and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below

5 A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine Peso Three Thousand (PHP 3,000 00) or its equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. The method of payment will be in cash or cashier's/manager's check. The document will be available for collection by the bidders representative or, in the case of an international firm, sent by a reputable international courier on receipt of an additional payment of Philippine Peso Two Thousand (PHP 2,000 00) or its equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. **A complete set of Bidding Documents is available starting April 30, 2003.**

Bids must be delivered to the address shown below on or before 10:00 AM on June 11, 2003. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price. Late bids will be rejected.

7 Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 10 00 AM, local time, on **June 11, 2003**, at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines, Tel. No. (+632) 632-1361 local 2115 Telefax (+632) 636-6539. Pre-bid conference will be held on **May 14, 2003**, 10:00 AM at the venue mentioned above.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary

(PDI – May 3, 5 & 6, 2003)

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www.jobmarketonline.com

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: April 8, 2003
LOAN NO.: MIYAZAWA
Contract No.: Sp01.SPTL.Mm-0338

1. The *National Power Corporation (NPC)* has received a loan from the *Miyazawa Funds* for *Zamboanga City Area 138 kV Transmission Line Project* and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract *Supply and Delivery of Transmission Line Materials for the Sangali - Pitogo 138 kV Transmission Line Project.*
2. The *National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)* administering the bidding of the said project, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of:

   Schedule I - Steel Towers, Leg/Body Extensions, Templates and Accessories

   Schedule II - Power Conductors, Aluminum-Clad Overhead Groundwire, Tower Footing Ground Wire and Accessories

   Schedule III - Insulator Assemblies, Line Materials and Hardwares

   Schedule IV - Optical Fiber Groundwire (OPGW), Tower Attachment Assemblies and Accessories.
3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the *Office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department, 2nd Floor, Building 2, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City (Zip Code 1104), Philippines, Tel./Fax Number: 921-2308.*
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting April 15, 2003 upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *ten thousand pesos (Php 10,000.00).*
5. A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals are opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive are rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals that have been submitted by qualified bidders are discussed with the bidders and the bidders are requested for full compliance. The bidders may or may not submit a supplementary price proposal, which contain the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in the technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal are opened simultaneously in public.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of:

   Schedule I - Forty Thousand Three Hundred US dollars (US$40,300)

   Schedule II - Seventeen Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty US dollars (US$17,720)

   Schedule III - Thirty Three Thousand Four Hundred Eighty US dollars (US$33,480)

   Schedule IV - Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety US dollars (US$11,990)

   The bid security must be included with the technical proposal.

   The deadline for the submission of bids will be on June 17, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. at the aforementioned address. Late submissions will be rejected.
7. The technical proposals together with the bid security will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
8. The price proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals.
9. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN**
Chairman
Bids Award Committee

(PDI - May 3, 6, 14 & 22, 2003)

To all Banks, Businessmen
and Collecting Agents

FOR DISCOUNTING

5M worth of Account Receivables
of items sold to a prestigious
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BIG Discounts.
Cash Payments only.

For interested parties, please call
9120823, 9133766, 9133876

look for Ms. Grace Wong

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: March 28, 2003
LOAN NO.: MIYAZAWA
CONTRACT NO.: SP02.CMIP.Vw-0358

1. The *National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)* has received a loan from the *Miyazawa Funds for Cebu-Mactan Interconnection Project* and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract *Design, Furnishing, Installing, Testing and Commissioning (Turn-key Basis) GIS Substation including Protection & Communication Systems and Underground Power & fiber Optic Cables.*
2. The *National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)* invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the:

   Schedule I - Design, Furnishing, Installing, Testing and Commissioning (Turn-key Basis) 138/69 kV GIS & Conventional Outdoor Substation Equipment including Protection & Communication Systems for Mandaue S/S, Mactan S/S & Banilad S/S Expansion

   Schedule II - Design, Furnishing, Installing, Testing and Commissioning (Turn-key Basis) 138 kV Underground XLPE Power Cables & Fiber Optic Cables
3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the *Office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department, 2nd Floor, Building 2, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City (Zip Code 1104), Philippines, Tel./Fax Number: 921-2308.*
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting March 28, 2003 upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *fifty-five thousand pesos (Php 55,000.00).*
5. A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals are opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive are rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals that have been submitted by qualified bidders are discussed with the bidders and the bidders are requested for full compliance. The bidders may or may not submit a supplementary price proposal, which contain the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in the technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal are opened simultaneously in public.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of:

   Schedule I - Three Hundred Seventy Four Thousand Three Hundred Twenty US dollars (US$374,320)

   Schedule II - Two Hundred Sixty Thousand and Forty US dollars (US$260,040)

   The bid security must be included with the technical proposal

   The deadline for the submission of bids will be on July 15, 2003 at [illegible] p.m. at the aforementioned address. Late submissions will be rejected
7. The technical proposals together with the bid security will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
8. The price proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals.
9. The total contract duration for each schedule is 540 calendar days
10. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government
11. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address

(Sgd.) **WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN**
Chairman
Bids Award Committee

(PDI - May 3, 7 & 17, 2003)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
[illegible] Meralco Avenue, Pasig [illegible]

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax. [illegible]
Direct Line [illegible]
Trunk Line [illegible]

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

DepEd -- BNFE - 03-04-01

The Department of Education through the Bureau of Non-Formal Education is inviting all suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Printing and Delivery of Translated Basic Literacy Learning Materials. For purposes of record and in compliance with the law, the Department has an approved budget of P2.4 million for printing, delivery and administrative cost.

All interested printers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting May 5 - 16, 2003 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph.

A pre-bid conference will be held on May 16, 2003, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on June 2, 2003 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman DepEd-BAC

(PDI–May 3, 6 & 10, 2003)

NFA's rice contingency plans in place

NATIONAL Food Authority Administrator Arthur C. Yap assures the public that rice is accessible to all people in all parts of the country as the agency sets into motion a contingency plan under its Oplan Paghahanda.

Oplan Paghahanda is the NFA's food security preparedness program launched in February in view of the conflict between the United States and Iraq.

Yap said the agency is presently undertaking full blast milling of its palay stocks even as it has already effected the transfer of rice from high-producing areas to traditionally deficit and high consumption areas across the country.

The NFA administrator outlined these modes of action in a meeting with the National Security Council in Malacañang.

Aside from the National Capital Region, Yap identified Batanes, Benguet, Palanan, Quezon, Albay, Catanduanes, Masbate and Palawan in Luzon as critical areas in terms of securing their rice supply.

"We have undertaken full accounting of our available stocks in these areas and identified sources of additional supply as well as the speed and mode of delivery of rice to these provinces when needed," Yap said.

For Luzon, rice supply via land delivery will come from Isabela and Pangasinan in the north and in the south from Batangas which is used as a depot of rice coming from Mindoro and abroad. By sea, other sources of supply are Mindoro, Aurora province and Batangas. For the provinces that are adjacent, delivery of rice by land will only take 48 hours while delivery by sea especially for island provinces will take a minimum of five to a maximum of seven days, according to Yap.

Rice for Metro Manila will be augmented by direct importation as the Port of Manila is one of the major entry points of rice imports.

In the Visayas, critical areas identified include Cebu, Negros Occidental and Oriental, Siquijor, Northern and Southern Leyte and the three provinces of Samar. Rice supply for most of these island provinces will come from Iloilo and will be delivered by sea.

Since Cebu is also one of the country's main ports of entry for imported rice, its supply will also be augmented by direct importation. It shall also be a transhipment point for rice supply in the identified critical areas in the Visayas, Yap noted.

For the Mindanao area, among the areas identified as critical and vulnerable to supply disruption are Zamboanga City, Misamis Oriental, Davao City, General Santos, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-tawi and Maguindanao.

Rice supply for these areas will come from Zamboanga del Norte and Sur, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Southern Philippines Grains Complex and the main transhipment points for rice importation such as Cebu, Davao and General Santos.

Rice imports will also augment the rice supply of Davao and General Santos City, Yap said.

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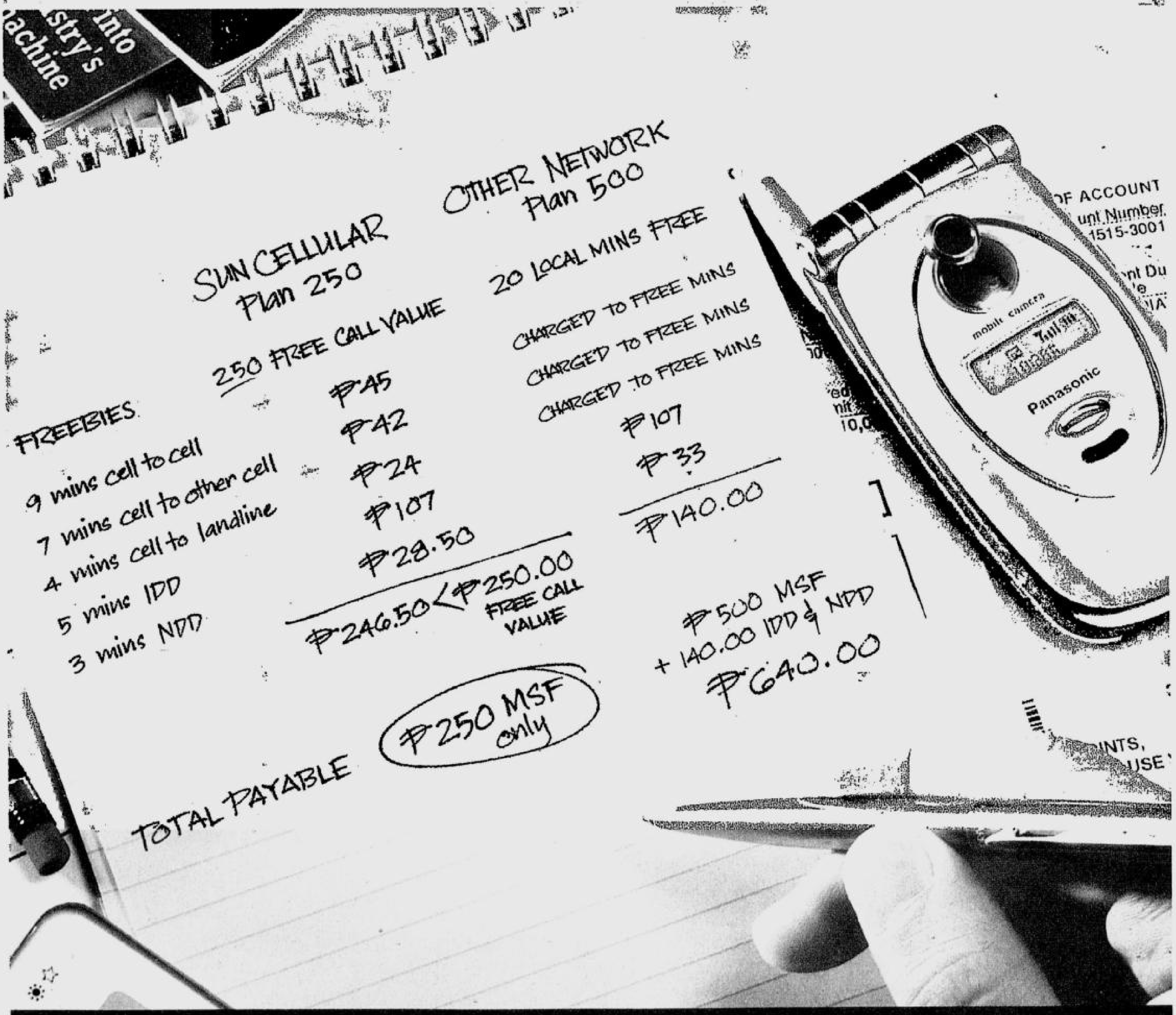

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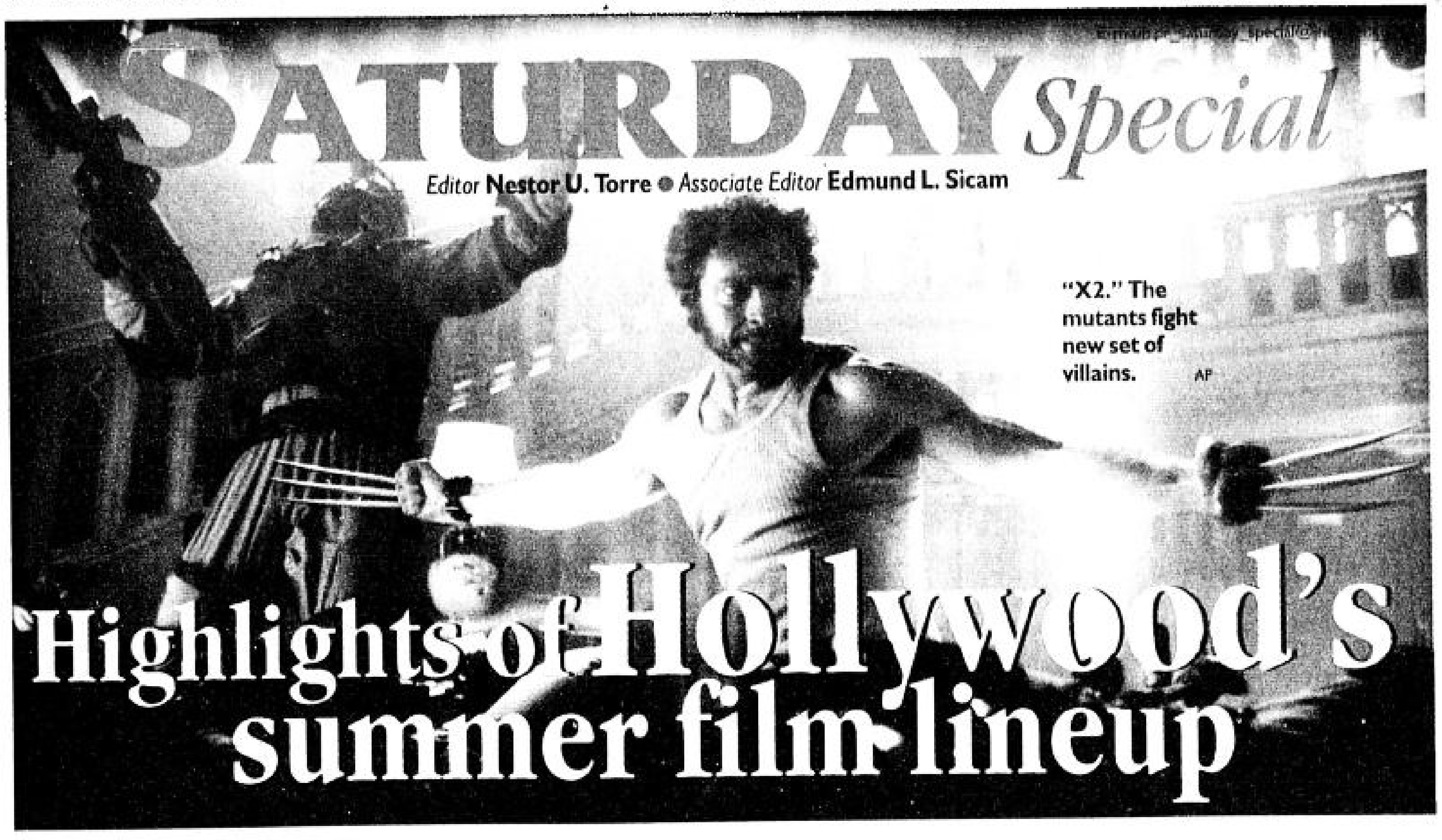
SATURDAY Special

Editor **Nestor U. Torre** ● *Associate Editor* **Edmund L. Sicam**



"X2." The mutants fight new set of villains. AP

Highlights of Hollywood's summer film lineup

LOS ANGELES—Highlights of Hollywood's summer film slate. Release dates are subject to change, and some films play in limited release.

May

"City of Ghosts." Matt Dillon directs and stars in the story of con men on the run in Asia. With James Caan.

"Confidence." A swindle goes sour, forcing a con man (Ed Burns) to pull a job for a crime boss (Dustin Hoffman).

"Identity." Travelers stranded at an isolated motel discover there's a murderer among them. With John Cusack.

"It Runs in the Family." Kirk and Michael Dougael Douglas) and a meek foot doctor (Albert Brooks) are prospective in-laws.

"The Italian Job." Gold thieves retaliate against a double-crosser in their ranks. Mark Wahlberg, Charlize Theron and Edward Norton star in a remake of the '60s caper.

Class trip

"The Lizzie McGuire movie." The Disney Channel series goes big-screen as Lizzie (Hilary Duff) takes a class trip to Italy.

"The Matrix Reloaded." Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne and Carrie-Anne Moss continue the fight against Earth's machine rulers.

"Only The Strong Survive." A reunion concert of soul singers, featuring Wilson Pickett, Carla and Rufus Thomas and Sam Moore.

"Pokemon Heroes." The animated "pocket monsters" return for an adventure in a mysterious water city.

Campus tale

"The Shape of Things." Neil LaBute directs a campus tale of love and sex adapted from his play. With Rachel Weisz and Gretchen Mol.

"Sweet Sixteen." A British teen schemes for cash to build a new life for him and his mother, who's about to get out of prison.

"Wrong Turn." Youthful travelers are hunted by inbred cannibals in West Virginia.

"X2: X-Men United." Everyone's favorite mutants fight fresh evil. The ensemble includes Patrick Stewart, Halle Berry and Rebecca Romijn-Stamos.

June

"Capturing the Friedmans." The top Sundance documentary winner traces the dissolution of a family amid child-molestation charges.

"Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle." "Angels" Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore and Lucy Liu go undercover to solve witness-protection murders. McG directs again.

"Dumb & Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd." The dopes of "Dumb and Dumber" blunder their way through high school in this prequel.

"From Justin to Kelly." "American Idol" personalities Kelly Clarkson and Justin Guarini team for a beach romance.

Major heist

"The Hard Word." Out on bail, three brothers reluctantly sign on to a major heist. With Guy Pearce and Rachel Griffiths.

"Hollywood Homicide." L.A. detectives (Harrison Ford, Josh Hartnett) investigate the slayings of a rap group in this action comedy.

"The Hulk." Ang Lee directs the comic-book adaptation about a scientist (Eric Bana) transformed into a beastly superhero. Jennifer Connelly and Nick Nolte co-star.

Romantic encounter

"Jet Lag." Losers in love (Juliette Binoche and Jean Reno) have a romantic encounter at a Paris airport.

"Prozac Nation." Christina Ricci as a depressed Harvard freshman in the days before Prozac.

"Rugrats Go Wild." The cartoon toddlers meet the "Wild Thornberrys" clan on a deserted island.

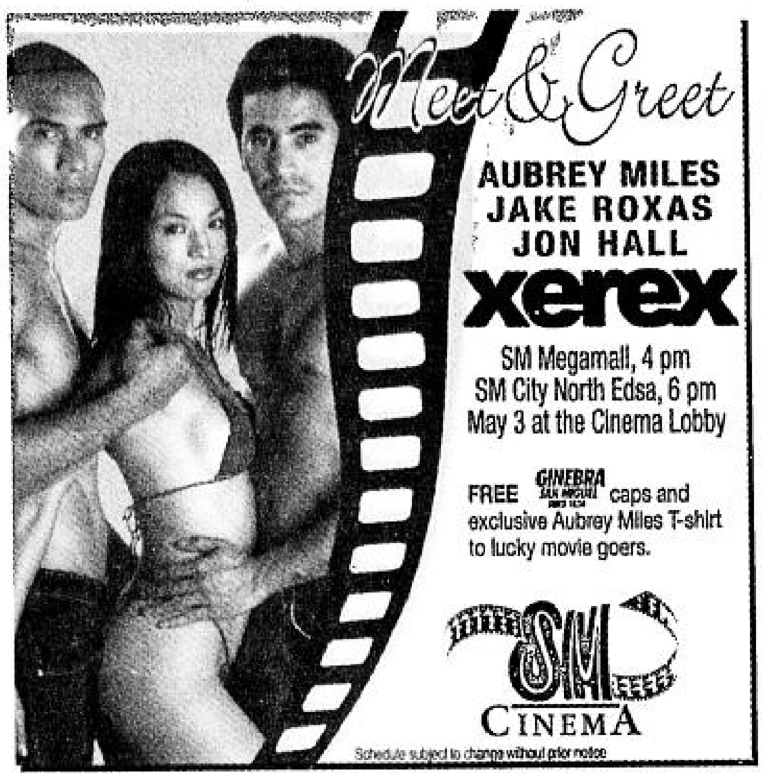
Zombies

"28 Days Later." A virus turns most of Britain's inhabitants into murderous zombies. Danny Boyle ("Trainspotting") directs.

"2 Fast 2 Furious." Vin Diesel's a no-show, but Paul Walker returns for the hot wheels follow-up to "The Fast and the Furious."

"Whale Rider." The film-festival hit from New Zealand tells the story of a girl who bucks tradition to seek leadership of her Maori tribe.

AP



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Oprah's Angel Network rewards good works

By Noelani Torre

IS it any wonder Oprah Winfrey's show is so popular? What other television program gives away money to ordinary people without first making them sweat, cry, or eat blood balls for it?

Money and recognition

While channel surfing a few days ago, we happened to catch an episode of "Oprah" where she gave away $500,000 through her Angel Network Million Dollar Extravaganza. She didn't offer it to just anybody, though. It's the new Oprah thing, bestowing money—and recognition—on people who deserve them. (And, isn't that a television first?)

Oprah's Use Your Life award recognizes people who have contributed a great deal to the betterment of their communities and the lives of other people. Winners of the award, people who have used their lives to do good, are not only lauded, they also receive $100,000 each, plus more "surprises." In that particular show, Oprah granted five awards to groups and individuals.

Before everything else, we must say that the other good thing about this—and part of the reason why the show was a delight to watch—was Oprah's genuine enjoyment of her altruistic endeavor. You could see that her respect for the awardees was sincere, and that she didn't just do it so that *she* would be applauded. There was no grandstanding on her part. Can you imagine one of our own show hosts doing that?

WINFREY. Absolutely no grandstanding on her part.

First awardee

The first awardee was Florida's Earle Lee, who founded the Boys' Choir of Tallahasee in 1995. The choir not only keeps its young members off the streets and in the music room, it also helps them maintain high academic standards, their goal being college. With its motto, "No excuses," it has been successfully sending its members to college, and the group was even invited to perform for the Pope.

For giving those boys "a voice and a future," a teary-eyed Lee was given $100,000 (that's more than P5 million). But that wasn't all; Oprah also had a surprise for him—free tuxedos for the choir's 150 members, from Perry Ellis. (If you want good advertising, you can't go wrong with a donation to one of Oprah's causes. She'll endorse you herself—as she did with Perry Ellis and the other corporate sponsors.)

A summer camp for homeless children also got $100,000. Camp Harmony was started by a mother, Robin Siegel, and the camp's practical yet touching motto is : Give them all the love they can take, and all the food they can eat."

Homelessness

Though it may seem a bit strange to us, America being a First World country, homelessness is nevertheless a very real social problem there, and the people more affected than anyone else are the homeless kids.

Thus, the camp, now on its 13th year, helps these kids build their self-esteem and encourages them to stay in school. Before they leave, it also tries to provide them with at least a full set of clothes. (One small girl, when asked about her stay in the camp, marveled at the existence of such simple things as hair conditioner!)

For its efforts, Camp Harmony not only got the money, but the clothing line of Land's End also donated one year's supply of clothing per child (35 items each)!

High academic standards

Another award went to two Ivy League grads who established the SEED School, the first-ever public boarding school for innner-city kids in the US. The school provides a safe learning environment for kids who ordinarily wouldn't have it in their own neighborhoods. With its high academic standards, most if not all of their graduates go on to college.

The two awardees, much more restrained than the others (no dewy eyes for this pair), were nevertheless overwhelmed when they were also given a donation of beds, desks, dressers and accessories for each student's dorm room, from Blims' and Things. And what's more, Amazon.com's Jeff Bezos also donated PCs for each student, and Gateway gave away printers!

Food company

The last two awards for that show were given to an artist and a food company. YAYA was founded by artist and gallery-owner Jana Napoli, who got kids off the streets and into a place where they could paint and become productive young artists. Aside from the cash, there was also a donation of $100,000 worth of art supplies from Michael's!

The food company, Food From the Hood, started off as a garden planted by the students of Crinshaw High behind their school. At first donating their produce, they eventually decided to sell them, to raise scholarship money for college.

Later on, their plans became even more elaborate and they formed Food From the Hood, whose tagline is "Buy a salad dressing bottle and send a kid to college."

Ecstatic recipients

The ecstatic recipients, who were literally bubbling over with joy, also got a new van for their deliveries—the 2002 GMC Envoy Excel from General Motors!

It was truly an inspiring show. Everything was done in the spirit of good cheer and humanity—which is rare on television today. We've admired Oprah before for promoting literature though her Book Club, but we admire her even more now that we know of her latest project. And though it may sound corny, we really wish there were more shows like hers around.

Caring enough

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

Last Wednesday, I'd like to believe I did something quite meaningful. I gave a 10-minute speech about the art of caring enough during the annual convention of the Philippine Association of Nephrologists held at Edsa Shangri-la-Manila.

Insights

It was the occasion to establish the Philippine Association for Renal Health (PAReH) but I'll tell you all about that at a later, more auspicious time. For now, I'd like to share with you the speech I gave to kidney doctors from all over the country. Hopefully, you can gather insights from it that can help you—especially if you finally realize your dream to become a doctor yourself:

"Right off, I have a confession to make: I'm not fond of listening to speeches—much less giving one myself. I don't know what's bigger—my fear of falling asleep when someone is giving a speech, or my fear of sending people to sleep when I'm the one giving the speech.

"I just can't say no to Dr. Lyn Baustista, my doctor at the dialysis center. I'm afraid that if I say no, she'll make my already miserable life even more miserable.

"For another, and this is another confession, I'd like to get back at you nephrologists. I dare you to sleep while I bore you to death with my speech. Yes, you are allowed to sleep. Just please don't snore. You might wake up the person beside you.

"Kidding aside, when told about this invitation, I immediately said yes because I saw this as the perfect opportunity for me to discuss with you the many profound problems that beset the lives of kidney patients.

Financial burden

"Like the huge financial burden the ailment exacts on the people it chooses to attack. Or the emotional upheaval that the family of a renal patient has to cope with. Or the severe reduction in the quality of life that renders many kidney patients totally helpless—walking wounded just waiting for merciful death to come, completely at the mercy of over-stressed family and friends, who themselves suffer from not just financial poverty but also the impoverishment of the spirit.

"But then, on second thought, I don't really want to talk to you about that. Instead, after some serious thinking, I have decided to simply take this chance for me, a renal patient, to air some gripes I have about you nephrologists.

"I think, this is more interesting, don't you think so? So brace yourselves, and just grin and bear it. After all, it's too late to disinvite me. I'm already here!

"Let me start off by saying that I'm a bad patient. I'm the type who pesters doctors with a million and one questions. First, because I genuinely want to know everything there is to know about what's happening to me. Second, because I want to delay the inevitable.

"The way I figure it, if I manage to exasperate my doctor, he'll decide not to do what he needs to do to me—and I can continue pretending that there's nothing wrong with me. Of course, doctors always win in the end, but that doesn't stop me from trying.

Tiresome

"Also, I'm the type who argues endlessly and, sometimes, needlessly with my doctors. I don't follow their advice—especially if I find it tiresome, or if I think they're too strict or so stiff with their bloated sense of self-importance, or if I simply don't like their faces. There are also times when I don't follow their advice just to find out if all the grim scenarios they warn me about will really transpire.

"I also sometimes say the most mind-boggling thing just for the sheer pleasure of seeing what my doctor's reaction will be. Like, one time, I told my doctor, "You know, you are very efficient, but you're not compassionate. Your patients definitely need your efficiency but we need your compassion more. We need you to be professional, but first and foremost, we need you to care."

"You should have seen her face after I said that to her. I almost laughed but I kept a straight face, because the mere suggestion of a laugh would have ruined the effect I had so triumphantly achieved.

"One other thing, I have this nasty habit of wanting my doctors to indulge me. Like, when they surgically removed this thing just below my neck because this thing inside my lower left arm was already operational for my thrice-weekly dialysis, I had two simple requests:

"First, I didn't want any anesthesia. Second, I wanted soft, soothing music to play while the operation was going on. My doctor dutifully assured me that she would relay my requests to the doctor who would be doing the operation.

"But this second doctor was something else. First, he had this smug smirk on his face. Second, he hardly talked to me—I felt like I was a frog in a petri dish in a biology lab. Third, he did not play the soft, soothing music I fervently begged for. Fourth, when he asked to confirm if I really didn't want any anesthetic, the subtext I got from his voice was something like, "You're such a stupid brat. You don't know what you're asking for."

Anesthetic

"Indeed, I should have asked for an anesthetic. Because it was the most excruciating experience I've ever had in my entire life. Not even childbirth was as painful. I screamed the scream of the damned. And it didn't help that the doctor had that smug smirk plastered on his face.

"Now, if I were the doctor tasked to operate on the impossible patient named Inday Badiday, what would I have done?

"First, I'd have patiently tried to find out the reason for those seemingly whimsical requests. Then, I'd have discovered that the no-anesthetic request was actually a cry for help, born out of the patient's very real fear that she could die.

"As a doctor, of course you know that it is a simple surgical procedure and not at all life-threatening. But the patient does not know that. To her, every operation is a plunge into the unknown and it could snuff her life out. She requested that no anesthesia be given to her because she was afraid that if she fell asleep, she might not wake up anymore. Or if she did, she would already be in heaven.

"As to the second request, I'd be very careful in weighing the relevance of having soft music played during surgery. But I'd have allowed it. Because I'd have figured out that the patient just wanted to be reassured that I cared for her. And if she wanted to be in the most comfortable state as she went through what, in her mind, was potentially the most painful thing, then there should be nothing wrong with that.

Courage

"Now, as I said, I only made two requests. Actually, I had several others which I no longer had the courage to verbalize.

"Like, I wanted the curtains in the operating room to be changed. White is so antiseptic and dull. I wanted pink or baby blue or lavender.

"I also wanted colorful prints on the surgical gowns of the doctors. Like, it would be nice to have Disney characters, or sunflowers, or even just smiley designs.

"And, hear this, I wanted to light some scented candles while I was being operated on, so that their soothing aroma could pervade the whole operating room and their therapeutic properties could spread magic and enchantment all around.

"One other thing, I wanted a prayer brigade inside the operating room so that I could mentally join them in their prayers as the operation went on. I naturally wanted to make sure God was there to oversee the entire thing.

"Quite sadly, I never got to even just verbalize these requests. I was too afraid that the doctor might find me too weird for suggesting them.

"At this point, I'd like to share with you a secret wish I have. I wish that all doctors were more demonstrative with their feelings—most especially feelings of solicitude, empathy and compassion. I wish they'd shed off some of their haughtiness passed off as professional efficiency, as well as their feeling of omnipotence cloaked in a sense of authority.

Problem

" I concede that, deep in their hearts, most doctors really, genuinely care for their patients. I will even concede that they sincerely love them. The problem is, they just do not know how.

"Now, if I may, I'll tell you doctors, how to love us, your patients:

CARING/ C3

Be humble

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

IN the midst of problems and difficulties, people often wonder, "What do I have to be grateful for? Why do I have to thank God at all? I don't even get what I deserve in life."

Efforts

A philosophy that is now popular is the idea, "I am a good person, I do many things for others and the world. I deserve a nice life for all my efforts."

This makes it difficult for us to experience actual gratitude in our hearts. We cannot be truly thankful when we are feeling deprived. We cannot be appreciative when we think that God owes us something.

There is one consistent quality in great personalities, and that is humility. The consciousness of the wise and truly magnanimous person is, "I am not worthy of any recognition, honor or respect. I am but a sinful soul, an undeserving servant of the Supreme, and I have been blessed by Him with the opportunity to be of service to Him and to all His children. I am indebted to Him for His mercy and am eternally grateful for His kindness to me."

True blessings

Thankfulness born out of humility allows us to see the true blessings that we have been given. We have a human body that we can use to achieve self-realization and happiness. We are eternal spirit-souls struggling in this world plagued by wars and diseases. We are given opportunities to get out of this situation and go back home to the kingdom of the Supreme.

A grateful individual treasures his eternal gifts and values the opportunities given to him to be able to solve the problems of life. He grabs hold of every chance to seriously make spiritual progress.

Precious gifts

When we realize we have precious gifts, we protect and nurture them. We take advantage of those blessings and try to become more pleasing to the Greatest Benefactor of all. My teacher once said, "You may not have money, but you all have tongues. You can use your tongue to pray and glorify the Supreme. In this way, you can taste the nectar of happiness."

Poor people have the same opportunities as the rich to be truly satisfied, grateful, peaceful and happy. Everyone can take advantage of the blessings of human life to be resituated in our eternal condition of happiness in the spiritual realm. We can use our body, mind, intelligence, time and energy to come to know and love the Supreme. This is the true goal of existence.

Each day will become more enlightening if we appreciate the goodness of the Supreme and the greatness of His blessings. Each day will be more fulfilling if we express our grateful and thankful to the Supreme Lord. We are unworthy but He is so kind to us. Thank you, Lord.

Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com

Deteriorating image of movie people deplored

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME stars have started complaining publicly about the deteriorating image of movie people in the eyes of the public, no thanks to the "invasion" of both film and TV screens by sleazy bold performers.

Acclaimed stars

The industry's acclaimed stars have worked hard to persuade the public that film luminaries are responsible members of society—only to have their efforts rendered moot, and even contradicted by sexy starlets who do and say all sorts of nasty and even shocking things on TV, just to get their 15 minutes' worth of "fame" (or, more properly, notoriety).

What *are* self-respecting movie luminaries to do? The temptation is to drop out for a few years, let the industry completely self-destruct in the process, and then come back to pick up the pieces, and start again.

But, of course, that would be copping out and letting the low life get total run of the place. So, the thing is not to flee, but fight. The question is, *how*?

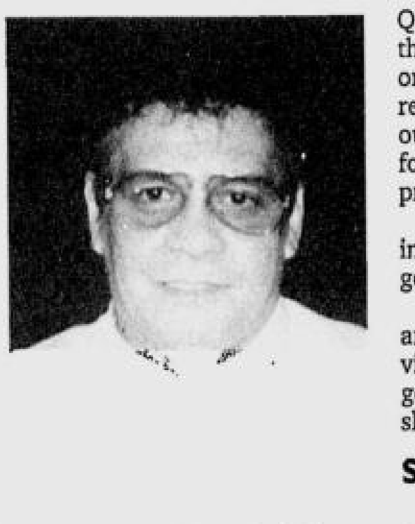
First, get industry leaders to realize that the situation has become critical. If the likes of Fernando Poe Jr. can be persuaded to lead the rehabilitation of the local TV-movie trade, others would support such a move.

Solution

You know how it is in this country, people wait for the big leaders and power brokers to crack the whip and show the way before they decide to become part of the solution, instead of the problem.

Second, appeal to the finer sensibilities of TV executives to stop being so prodigal with all the airtime they currently give to the worst representatives of the movie industry.

If the TV people can't be persuaded to accentuate the positive instead of the sleazy, then perhaps they can be reminded by legislators and government overseers that their TV franchises are dependent on their observance of the tenets of responsible programming.



POE. Time for him to lead the rehabilitation of the TV-movie trade.

In other words, if you can't discipline yourselves and respect your audience, you could be history.

TV set

Finally, convince televiewers, particularly parents and educators, that television isn't as harmless as it may initially appear. Quite a number of viewers take that TV set and what comes out on it for granted, for the simple reason that it's been right there in our living rooms and bedrooms for years, and thus has become practically "invisible."

Fact is, however, television *is* influential and persuasive, for good or for bad.

It's the bad that's worrisome, and that's why we're hoping that viewers realize that there's no good to be had from stressing sleaze over substance.

Sexy starlet

The next time you see and hear a sexy starlet doing anything and everything to get her 15 *seconds* of infamy on TV, change the channel. If all the other free channels feature sexy starlets letting it all hang out and doing their worst to get noticed, switch off the TV set.

We can all use a rest from all that froth and filth leaking out of our TV screens these days. And decent movie people want us to remember: those sexy starlets don't speak for the industry. It only *looks* that way!

Spotlight on Jennifer Jones as saint and 'sinner'

By Behn Cervantes

MOVIE audiences the world over were quite taken by a pretty, dark-haired girl named Jennifer Jones when she appeared as the quietly suffering and saintly St. Bernadette.

Child performer

Jennifer was really Phyllis Isley, a native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, a child performer in vaudeville tent shows. Later on, she appeared in stock before she headed for New York City to study at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, where she met and married fellow struggling actor Robert Walker in 1939.

The couple moved quickly to Hollywood in search of stardom but all Phyllis could land were small roles in minor action films, a western and a serial. She bore Walker two sons in quick succession.

Then David O. Selznick, a Hollywood mover with his mega-hit "Gone With The Wind," signed her to an exclusive contract. He also gave her intimate and personal attention and changed her name to Jennifer Jones.

While Walker was establishing himself as a fine and sensitive young actor, the precursor of the likes of Montgomery Clift, Marlon Brando and James Dean, Selznick starred and rechristened Phyllis in "Song of Bernadette," a movie carefully chosen for her. The critical success of the film won Ms Jones an Academy Award for best actress in 1943.

Crestfallen

JONES. Her producer took a personal interest in her.

Obviously, her loyalty had changed, so she divorced Walker in 1945 and married Selznick in 1949. Walker was crestfallen and turned to drink. Despite his obvious talent, he inevitably had a nervous breakdown, was forcibly institutionalized and died young in 1951, despite fine performances in "Strangers on a Train," "My Son John" and "Since You Went Away." His portrayal of vulnerable young men with great sensitivity gained him critical praise.

Fans were a little taken aback when Jennifer, now known the world over as St. Bernadette, was cast as a Mexican spitfire in "Duel In The Sun," another Selznick production. The earthy character she portrayed was the antithesis of Bernadette, a fact that shocked her fans, who had wanted to "sanctify" her. She was nevertheless nominated for another Oscar.

This astounded her fans, but her husband *cum* producer wanted to break her "saintly" mold early on, so she could progress to other roles. She got a third Oscar nomination for "Love Letters" (1945).

Well-chosen roles

Selznick continued to push her to be a sexy actress, starring her in well-chosen roles in "Ruby Gentry" with macho Charleston Heston, "A Man In A Gray Flannel Suit" with suave Gregory Peck, and "Indiscretion of an American Wife" with ultra-sensitive Montgomery Clift. These projects were handled by respected directors but they did little to bolster her status as an actress.

Her latter films like "Ruby Gentry," "Love Is a Many Splendored Thing" and "Tender Is the Night" are remembered more for their theme songs rather than her performances.

Selznick starred Jennifer in the opus "A Farewell To Arms" with matinee idol Rock Hudson but there was no chemistry in their love scenes, so the movie failed both critically and commercially.

Despite this decline, Jennifer Jones will always be remembered kindly because, at the start of her career, she successfully portrayed St. Bernadette.

More celebrities let off steam

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

CELEBRITIES are different from you and me. For one thing, they have much more money to spend—on anything that tickles their fancy!

"I never intended to buy a whole town," said Kim Basinger in the book, "Hollywood and Whine" (a whole town?!), "but sometimes you start out shopping and wind up investing. It's nice when you can mix the two." Well, we wouldn't know—we can hardly go shopping as it is!

More practical

Whoopi Goldberg was a little more practical: "Tinted car windows are among the first things a celebrity buys once he becomes a celebrity," she said. "They're an absolute must." It's the same for terrorists!

The Gabor women also had a lot to say about the material things in life. "My mother always told me never to accept candy from strange men," said Eva. "Get real estate instead."

Likewise, Magda also had some inherited maternal wisdom to impart: "Our mother used to tell us, 'She who marries for money earns it—the hard way.' She believes you should fall in love with a rich man first, then marry him."

As for Zsa Zsa, she had this to say: "I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back!"

Cynical reasons

As we mentioned before, Hollywood celebrities also acquire children and spouses—sometimes for very cynical reasons: "Husbands: a necessary, very obtainable, but very costly accessory for the actress at or near the top," said entertainment columnist Sheilah Graham. And childless Paulette Goddard thought children were "a vital accessory for most actresses past the age of 30."

These accessories often had opinions of their own, too. Christina Crawford, one of Joan Crawford's four adopted children, condemned her adoptive parent with this statement:

"We were bought and used, and when our usefulness was over, we were dismissed. I was sent to boarding school at 10 and never lived at home again. I never had a family, nothing that could remotely be called normal."

Fascinated

We have always been fascinated with celebrity life. Their possessions, their so-called monetary value, and the lifestyles they have are part and parcel of the over-all image of stars that we perceive.

Still, though they may be constantly scrutinized by the media and are public figures, it would be well for us if we don't forget that they're also just people—and not everything they do is really any of our business!

Caring . . .

From page C2

"First, smile. Nobody should ever underestimate the importance and power of a doctor's smile. Dear doctors, stand in front of a mirror and study your smile. Try out different smiles. Make sure that your smile delivers your message powerfully and well. More importantly, make sure that your smile doesn't say what you didn't want to say in the first place.

"Second, let's talk about your voice. Dear doctors, get a tape recorder and record your voice. Be aware that there's a voice that reassures, but there's also a voice that sends anxiety signals. There's a voice that transmits warmth and caring, but there's a voice that fails to mask irritation, exasperation or impatience.

Friends

"Third point: your touch. Yes, dear doctors, touch us more often. Connect with us. A touch tells us you're not just a doctor and we are not just your patient. A touch tells us we are friends and you're going to do everything within your power to help us go through what is probably the most difficult time in our life.

"Touch us. Establish a human relationship with us. Talk to us not just about our ailments, but also about our spouse, children, home, friends, dreams, hopes, frustrations, faith.

"And also talk to us about God, whoever our God is. No matter how good a doctor you are, we know you are only human and can fail. But if we see that you acknowledge a power much greater than you, we are somehow reassured that we are in good hands.

"Finally, dear doctors, please make it a point to recognize us whenever and wherever we bump into each other. Consulting you about our medical problems and allowing you to operate on us is welcoming you into the innermost core of our being—it is sharing with you an intimate experience, from which the most profound friendships can be forged.

Cold and detached

"Of course, I don't mean for you to get obsessed with your patients to the point that it beclouds your objective judgement—but there really is no reason for you to be cold and detached, either. Please be aware that the measure of a good doctor is not in the lives you've saved but in the lives you've touched.

"We'll all die eventually. But if you have contributed to the improvement of my quality of life through your friendship, that should weigh more in the scales up in heaven.

"I therefore exhort you, dear doctors, let's seize the opportunity to be friends. After all, God must have a reason for arranging our lives so we could connect the way we have. God chose you for me as he also chose me for you. The fact that we should meet is not a matter of convenience or coincidence. It is serendipity. It is the hand of God introducing us to each other.

"Now, isn't that a beautiful thing? Isn't that the stuff of which priceless treasures are made? And, to a large extent, come to think of it, isn't that why we are all gathered here today in the first place?

"In closing, I'd like to express my deepest gratitude to my indefatigable doctors who have been very patient with me—Dr. Jane Gaston, Dr. Dinna Cruz, and most especially to my nephew, Dr. Nico Magsanoc.

"With that, dear doctors, my friends, I thank you. Thank you for the friendship. Thank you for not sleeping. Good day."

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X-MEN 2 P13 12:55,3:55, 6:55,9:55	ANGER MANAGEMENT R13 1:00,3:15,5:30, 7:45,10:00	X-MEN 2 P13 1:30,4:30, 7:30,10:30

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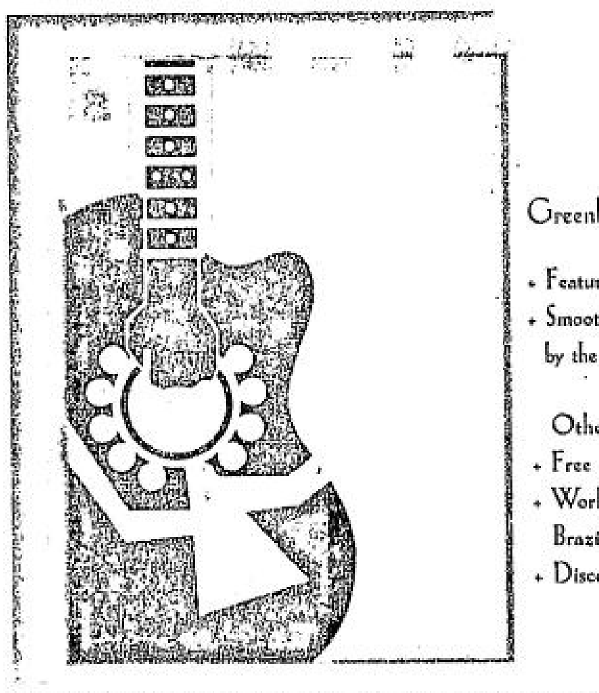

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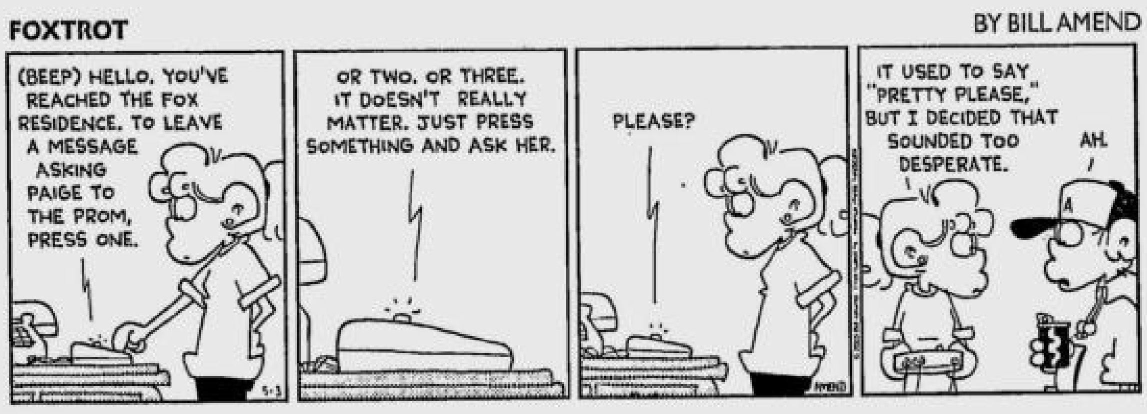
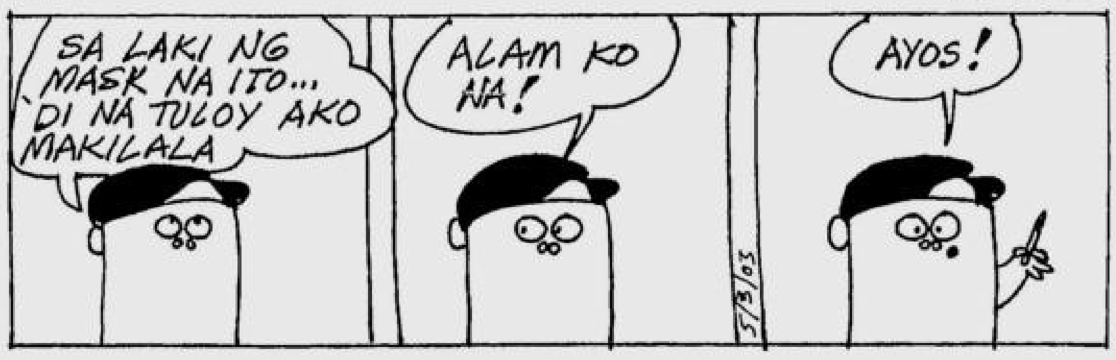
"WHATEVER YOU IMAGINE, YOU WILL SEE BEYOND OF IT."
MATRIX RELOADED
05.15.03

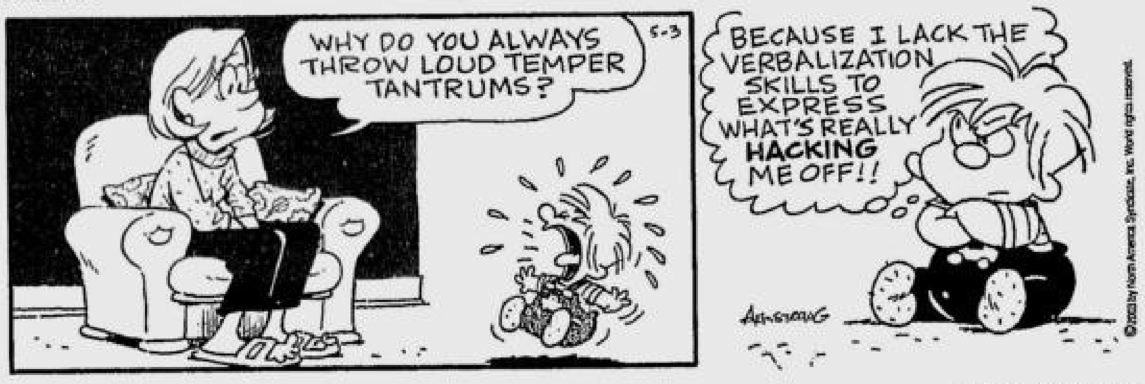
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


(BEEP) HELLO. YOU'VE REACHED THE FOX RESIDENCE. TO LEAVE A MESSAGE ASKING PAIGE TO THE PROM, PRESS ONE.
OR TWO. OR THREE. IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER. JUST PRESS SOMETHING AND ASK HER.
PLEASE?
IT USED TO SAY "PRETTY PLEASE," BUT I DECIDED THAT SOUNDED TOO DESPERATE.
AH.
5-3
AMEND

A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


SA LAKI NG MASK NA ITO... DI NA TULOY AKO MAKILALA
ALAM KO NA!
AYOS!
5/3/03

MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WHY DO YOU ALWAYS THROW LOUD TEMPER TANTRUMS?
5-3
BECAUSE I LACK THE VERBALIZATION SKILLS TO EXPRESS WHAT'S REALLY HACKING ME OFF!!
ARMSTRONG
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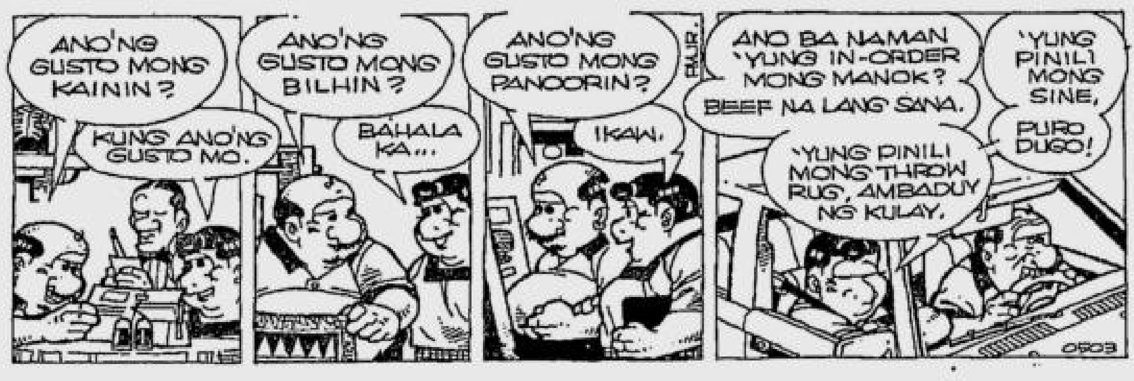
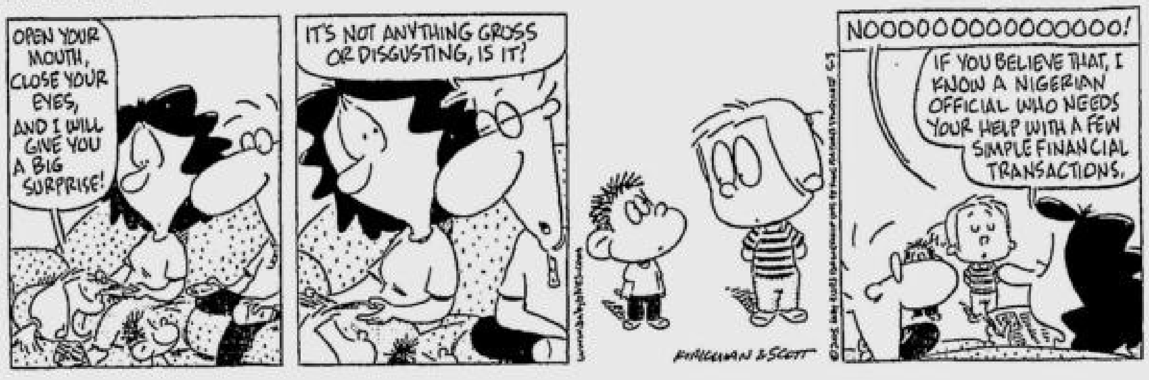
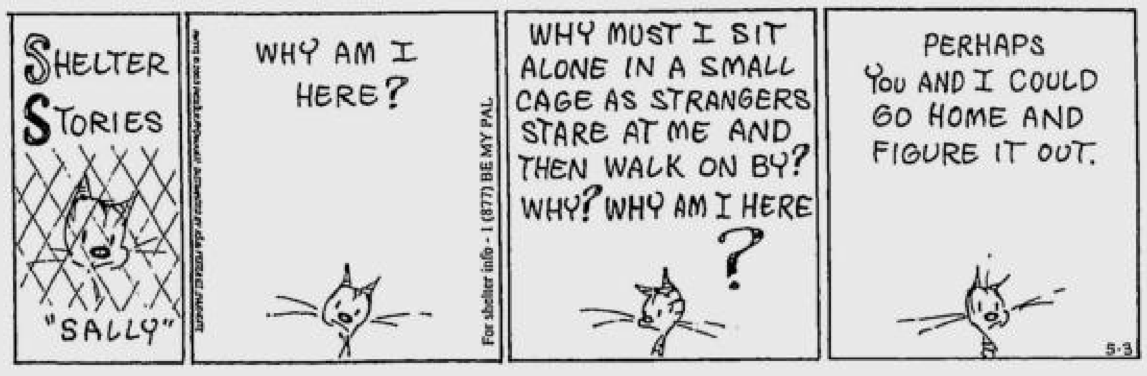
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO'NG GUSTO MONG KAININ?
KUNG ANO'NG GUSTO MO.
ANO'NG GUSTO MONG BILHIN?
BAHALA KA...
ANO'NG GUSTO MONG PANOORIN?
IKAW.
PMJR.
ANO BA NAMAN 'YUNG IN-ORDER MONG MANOK? BEEF NA LANG SANA.
'YUNG PINILI MONG THROW RUG, AMBADUY NG KULAY.
'YUNG PINILI MONG SINE, PURO DUGO!
0503

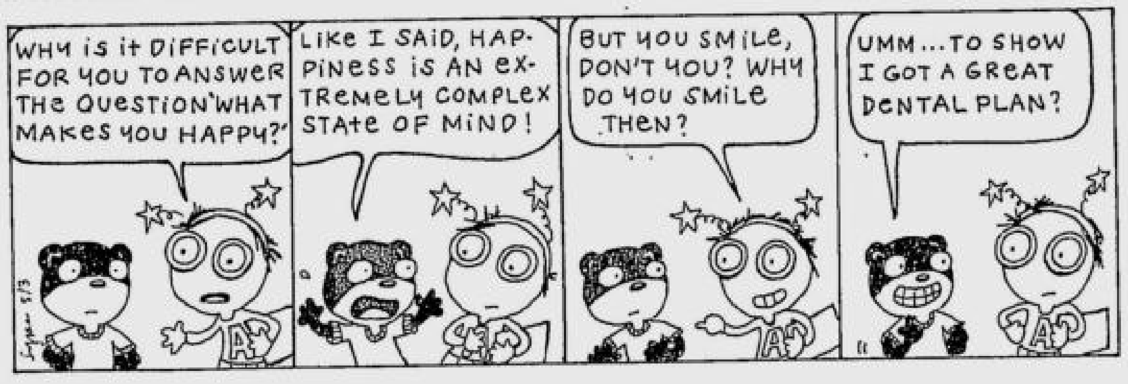
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


OPEN YOUR MOUTH, CLOSE YOUR EYES, AND I WILL GIVE YOU A BIG SURPRISE!
IT'S NOT ANYTHING GROSS OR DISGUSTING, IS IT?
NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!
IF YOU BELIEVE THAT, I KNOW A NIGERIAN OFFICIAL WHO NEEDS YOUR HELP WITH A FEW SIMPLE FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

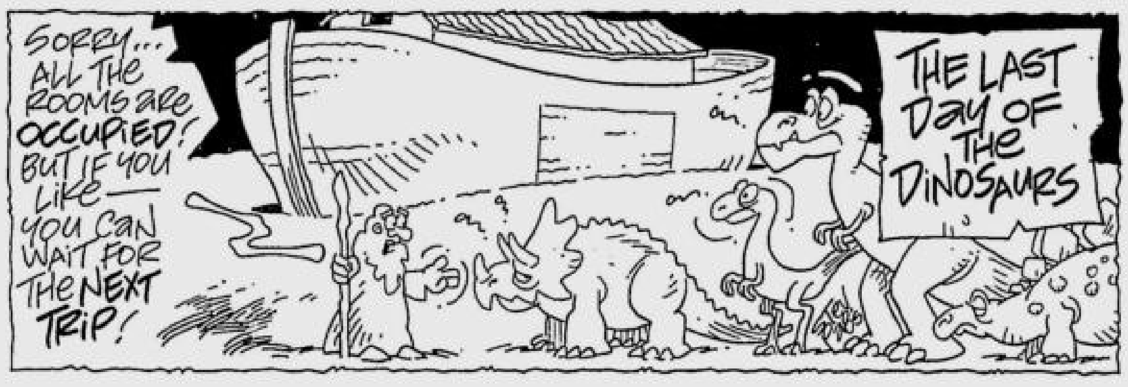
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
"SALLY"
WHY AM I HERE?
For shelter info - 1 (877) BE MY PAL.
WHY MUST I SIT ALONE IN A SMALL CAGE AS STRANGERS STARE AT ME AND THEN WALK ON BY? WHY? WHY AM I HERE
?
PERHAPS YOU AND I COULD GO HOME AND FIGURE IT OUT.
5-3

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHY IS IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO ANSWER THE QUESTION 'WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?'
LIKE I SAID, HAPPINESS IS AN EXTREMELY COMPLEX STATE OF MIND!
BUT YOU SMILE, DON'T YOU? WHY DO YOU SMILE THEN?
UMM... TO SHOW I GOT A GREAT DENTAL PLAN?
5/3

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SORRY... ALL THE ROOMS ARE OCCUPIED! BUT IF YOU LIKE— YOU CAN WAIT FOR THE NEXT TRIP!
THE LAST DAY OF THE DINOSAURS

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Above all, you are a warmhearted caregiver. Your own experience gives you strength to relate to others with a calmness that inspires respect and admiration. You work hard for what you believe in. Despite your calm exterior, you will take a gamble on life. Expect more solitude this year as you study or learn something important.
Birthdate of: Lance Bass, singer; Audrey Hepburn, actress; Ana Gasteyer, comic actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a pleasant Sunday, although some people get a bit intense and pushy midday. Shopping, short trips and discussions with siblings will definitely please you now.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You can relax once again, although you might feel obsessed about buying something today. Don't worry; you are one of the most sensible in the zodiac when it comes to spending your money.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): With the Moon in your sign today, you have a slight edge over everybody else. Enjoy yourself! But do try to get a little rest and relaxation, because your social life is so busy now.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Like Gemini, you are busy enjoying friends plus making appearances at groups, clubs and organizations. Others envy you now for some reason. (Perhaps your popularity.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Avoid conflict with somebody by instead enjoying yourself with friends today. You attract attention now, and this could make someone jealous. (Be understanding.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Someone older or more experienced might help you get better organized today. Or perhaps somebody gives you something that can help you do the job. Either way, you win.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your flirtations with someone might suddenly get the green light. Now you'll have to decide if you are serious or just having fun. (A tiny moment of truth, perhaps?)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Do not try to get your way with close friends and partners today. You'll only create further tension. Remember that some people find you slightly intimidating. (Slightly?)

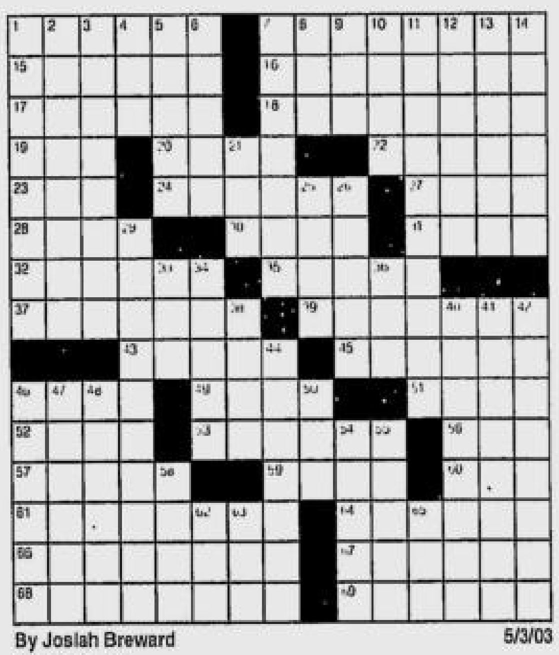
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Continue with your industrious efforts to get yourself organized. According to Eastern philosophy, when you reduce the clutter in your life, your good fortune grows.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is definitely the perfect day to play. Enjoy sports, flirtations, movies, parties and entertaining diversions. Playful times with children are also fun.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Family reunions and old business with family members demand your attention now. This is a good time to smooth over matters and mend broken fences.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Make sure that you stay on top of car or truck repairs. Delays to transportation or communication systems are extremely likely now. Follow the Boy Scout motto: Be prepared.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA
5/3/03

ACROSS
1 Brutal characters
7 Ceremonies in the Jordan
15 Queen Victoria's consort
16 Eastern
17 Neither male nor female
18 Adulterate
19 Weighty weight
20 Lone
22 Made over
23 Put a stop to
24 Scanty
27 Frodo's band
28 Pride signal
30 Dracula Lugosi
31 Suffer defeat
32 Tubb or Truex
35 Asian peninsula
37 Type of comb
39 Sister of Orestes
43 Dressed as a judge
45 Turned on a pivot
46 Melville's "Typee" sequel
49 Egyptian fertility goddess
51 London district
52 Knocks
53 Analyzes chemically
56 For every
57 Makes ready, for short
59 Influence
60 Harrison in "Star Wars"
61 Suitable for employment
64 Fabricate
66 500 B.C. Greek poet
67 Sss-sayer
68 Most unpleasant
69 Trims to a point

DOWN
1 Casual talker
2 Old-time actress Duse
3 Plentiful
4 Tennis unit
5 Lock or shock
6 Razor sharpener
7 "10" star
8 Ready when you __!
9 Brooch
10 Shred
11 Weaves
12 Artist's workshop
13 Cheech and John
14 Heavy hammer
21 Science rm.
25 Blackthorn berry
26 Warren and Scruggs
29 Hindsight
33 __ Tome and Principe
34 Leg bone
36 Moray
38 Fewer
40 Like dual AC electricity
41 Microwave oven, often
42 Decorators
44 Opposing opinion
46 Parentless youngster
47 Boat basin
48 "Norma" and "Louise"
50 Carpenter's tool
54 Pleasure cruiser
55 Hall of the U.A.R.
58 Calcutta dress
62 Hive builder
63 Spanish article
65 Psychic's letters

Friday's Puzzle Solved

D	A	W	N	■	B	R	E	E	Z	E	■	F	R	O
E	C	H	O	■	L	A	U	R	E	N	■	L	O	W
C	H	E	R	R	Y	G	R	I	N	D	H	A	I	L
A	E	T	N	A	■	M	O	N	O	L	O	G	■	■
F	D	R	■	S	P	A	S	■	■	I	N	C	A	S
■	■	H	I	T	O	N	■	V	A	N	G	O	G	H
G	U	I	T	A	R	■	M	E	R	F	■	B	I	O
A	N	N	E	■	T	Y	P	E	A	■	A	B	L	E
I	C	E	■	F	I	S	H	■	G	A	B	L	E	D
T	A	C	T	U	A	L	■	D	O	L	C	E	■	■
S	P	O	I	L	■	■	L	E	N	O	■	B	E	L
■	■	R	E	C	L	A	I	M	■	N	A	I	V	E
S	A	N	D	R	O	L	L	I	N	G	B	R	I	M
E	K	E	■	U	N	E	A	S	E	■	E	T	T	A
W	A	R	■	M	I	S	S	E	D	■	T	H	A	N

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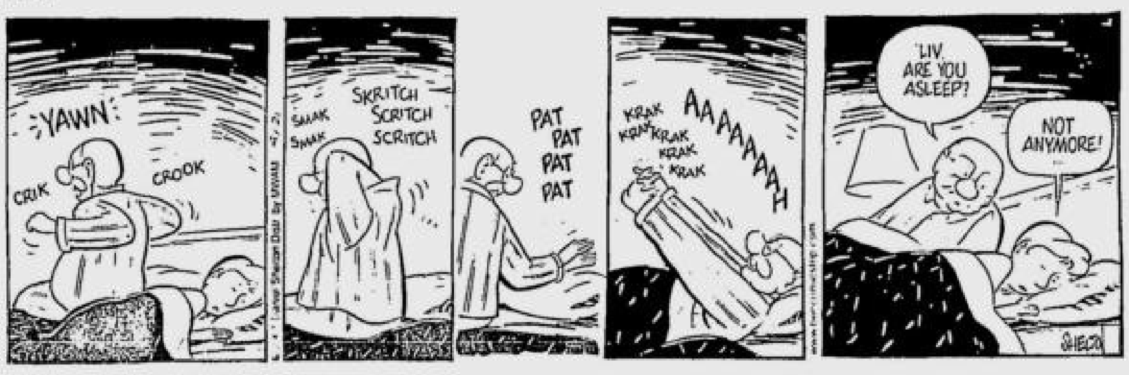
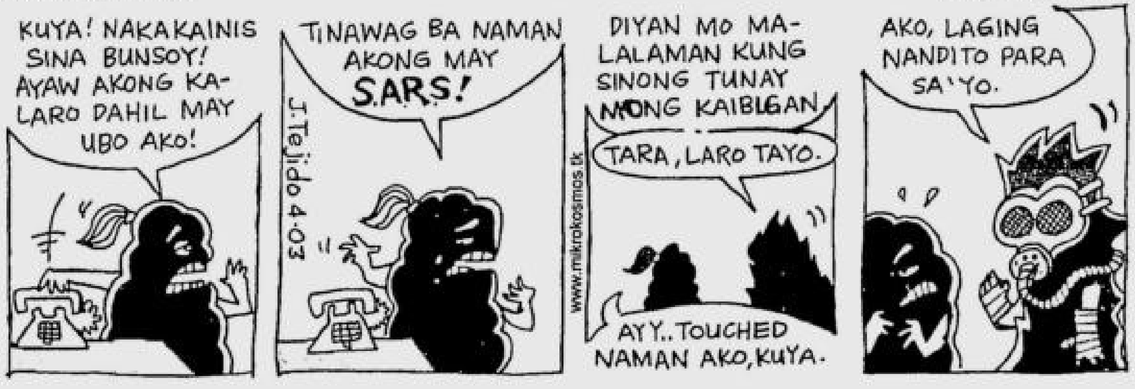
5/3/03

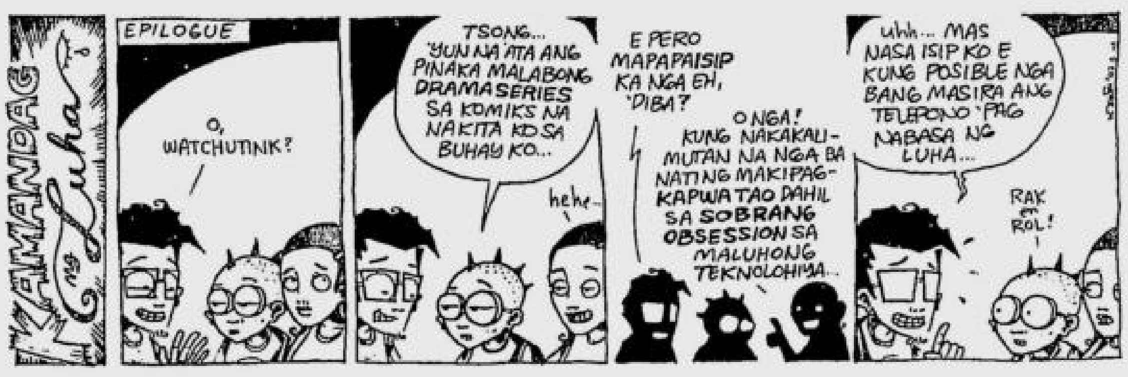
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


YAWN
CRIK
CROOK
SMAK SMAK
SKRITCH SCRITCH SCRITCH
PAT PAT PAT PAT
KRAK KRAK KRAK KRAK KRAK
AAAAAAAAH
LIV, ARE YOU ASLEEP?
NOT ANYMORE!
SHELTON

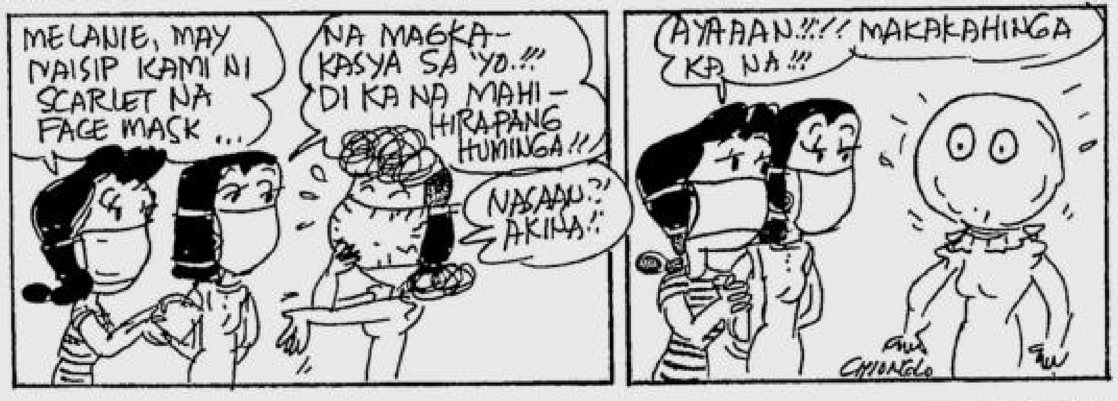
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KUYA! NAKAKAINIS SINA BUNSOY! AYAW AKONG KALARO DAHIL MAY UBO AKO!
TINAWAG BA NAMAN AKONG MAY S.A.R.S!
J.Tejido 4-03
www.mikrokosmos.tk
DIYAN MO MALALAMAN KUNG SINONG TUNAY MONG KAIBIGAN.
TARA, LARO TAYO.
AYY.. TOUCHED NAMAN AKO, KUYA.
AKO, LAGING NANDITO PARA SA 'YO.

KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


KAMANDAG NG LUHA
EPILOGUE
O, WATCHUTINK?
TSONG... 'YUN NA ATA ANG PINAKA MALABONG DRAMA SERIES SA KOMIKS NA NAKITA KO SA BUHAY KO...
hehe...
E PERO MAPAPAISIP KA NGA EH, 'DIBA?
O NGA! KUNG NAKAKALIMUTAN NA NGA BA NATING MAKIPAG-KAPWA TAO DAHIL SA SOBRANG OBSESSION SA MALUHONG TEKNOLOHIYA...
uhh... MAS NASA ISIP KO E KUNG POSIBLE NGA BANG MASIRA ANG TELEPONO 'PAG NABASA NG LUHA...
RAK en ROL!

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MELANIE, MAY NAISIP KAMI NI SCARLET NA FACE MASK...
NA MAGKAKASYA SA 'YO..!!! DI KA NA MAHIHIRAPANG HUMINGA!!
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AYAAAN..!!! MAKAKAHINGA KA NA!!!
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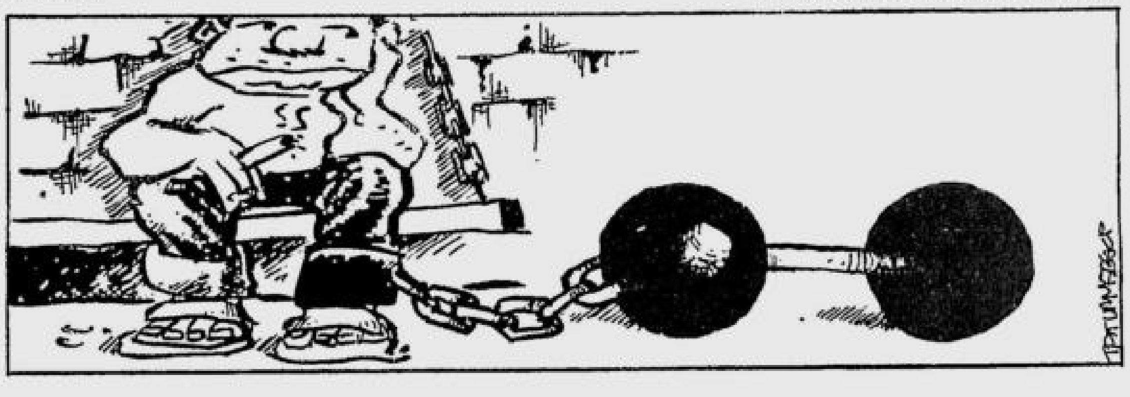

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 XEREX	1 X-MEN 2	ArtFilm 1 TITUS (Exclusive Screenings) 12:20, 3:20, 6:20, 9:20	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 X-MEN 2 2:35, 5:30, 8:25, 11:20	THX 1 X-MEN 2
2 TILL THERE WAS YOU	2 X-MEN 2	2 X-MEN 2 12:05, 2:55, 5:45, 8:35	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 X-MEN 2 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40	2 X-MEN 2
3 X-MEN 2	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 X-MEN 2 1:20, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40	Onstage ACOUSTIC NIGHT OUT FEAT. FREESTYLE May 1, 2 & 3	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 ANGER MANAGEMENT 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30	3 X-MEN 2
4 X-MEN 2	4 X-MEN 2		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 JOHNNY ENGLISH 1:30, 3:30, 5:25 X-MEN 2 7:05, 10:00	4 X-MEN 2
	5 JOHNNY ENGLISH		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 X-MEN 2 12:00, 3:15, 6:10, 9:05, 12:00	5 TILL THERE WAS YOU
	6 X-MEN 2			
	7 TILL THERE WAS YOU			

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6 GOLD (SDDS)	EQUILIBRIUM
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8	TILL THERE WAS YOU
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5	RESERVE
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3	OBSESSION
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6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
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9 (DOLBY)	JOHNNY ENGLISH

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2	RESERVE

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1	XEREX
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3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
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7 (DTS)	X-MEN-2
8	PUNLA
9	BOLD STAR

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4 (DOLBY)	JOHNNY ENGLISH
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU

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4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5 (SDDS)	X-MEN-2

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5	

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5 (DTS)	X-MEN-2
6	PHONE BOOTH
7	EQUILIBRIUM

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2	XEREX

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3 (DTS)	X-MEN-2

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1	XEREX
2 (DTS)	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 (DOLBY)	X-MEN-2
4	JOHNNY ENGLISH

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

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1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2 (DOLBY)	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3 (DTS)	X-MEN-2
4	XEREX

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3 (DTS)	TILL THERE WAS YOU
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4	VIRGIN PEOPLE-3
5	XEREX

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1	XEREX
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	X-MEN-2

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2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	XEREX

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1	RING-2
2	XEREX
3 (DTS)	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	X-MEN-2

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2 (DTS)	RESERVE

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3	RESERVE

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2	X-MEN-2
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	RING-2

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2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
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4	SOLARIS

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	X-MEN-2
3 (DOLBY)	SOLARIS
4 (DTS)	JUNGLE BOOK-2

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4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	X-MEN 2
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
7	XEREX
8	EQUILIBRIUM

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1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	ANGER MANAGEMENT
3	X-MEN 2
4	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
5	X-MEN 2
6	A MAN APART
7	JOHNNY ENGLISH
8	EQUILIBRIUM
9	XEREX
10	TILL THERE WAS YOU

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	JOHNNY ENGLISH
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	EQUILIBRIUM
4	X-MEN 2
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	XEREX
7	X-MEN 2
8	TILL THERE WAS YOU
9	A MAN APART
10	ANGER MANAGEMENT
11	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
12	X-MEN 2

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	X-MEN 2
2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3	WHAT A GIRL WANTS
4	X-MEN 2
5	ANGER MANAGEMENT
6	X-MEN 2
7	EQUILIBRIUM
8	A MAN APART
9	TILL THERE WAS YOU
10	TILL THERE WAS YOU
11	TILL THERE WAS YOU
12	XEREX

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6329401

1	EQUILIBRIUM
2	X-MEN 2
3	X-MEN 2
4	X-MEN 2
5	ANGER MANAGEMENT
6	JOHNNY ENGLISH
7	A MAN APART
8	TILL THERE WAS YOU
9	TILL THERE WAS YOU
10	X-MEN 2
11	TILL THERE WAS YOU
12	XEREX

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1	ANGER MANAGEMENT
2	X-MEN 2
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	XEREX
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	X-MEN 2
7	JOHNNY ENGLISH
8	X-MEN 2

SM SOUTHMALL

8066888

1	X-MEN 2
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	X-MEN 2
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	ANGER MANAGEMENT
6	A MAN APART
7	XEREX
8	X-MEN 2
9	JOHNNY ENGLISH
10	TILL THERE WAS YOU

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	X-MEN 2
2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3	KANGAROO JACK
4	EQUILIBRIUM
5	XEREX
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
7	TILL THERE WAS YOU
8	X-MEN 2

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	JUST MARRIED
2	CLOSED
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	X-MEN 2
5	X-MEN 2
6	JOHNNY ENGLISH
7	CLOSED
8	XEREX

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	X-MEN 2
2	X-MEN 2
3	JOHNNY ENGLISH
4	XEREX
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

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1	XEREX
2	X-MEN 2
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	X-MEN 2
2	XEREX
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	X-MEN 2
2	XEREX
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	JOHNNY ENGLISH
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	X-MEN 2

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	XEREX
4	X-MEN 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

1	X-MEN 2
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	JOHNNY ENGLISH
4	X-MEN 2

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1	X-MEN 2 11:10 FS/11:40 MF/2:30/5:20/8:10/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:20 END
2	X-MEN 2 10:30 FS/11:00 MF/1:50/4:40/7:30/9:50 LFS/10:30 LMF/12:40 END

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2	X-MEN2
3	JOHNNY ENGLISH
4	XEREX
5	TILL THERE WAS YOU
6	X-MEN2
7	EQUILIBRIUM
8	TILL THERE WAS YOU
9	A MAN APART
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2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3	XEREX
4	ANGER MANAGEMENT
5	X-MEN 2
6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
7	X-MEN 2

Metro East - Marcos hway

682- 8193 / 8280

1	ANGER MANAGEMENT
2	X-MEN 2
3	JOHNY ENGLISH
4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
5	X-MEN 2
6	XEREX
7	X-MEN 2
8	TILL THERE WAS YOU

Novaliches

935- 3229 - 30

1	X- MEN 2
2	A MAN APART
3	XEREX
4	JOHNY ENGLISH
5	X- MEN 2
6	ANGER MANAGEMENT
7	TILL THERE WAS YOU
8	TILL THERE WAS YOU

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1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	X- MEN 2
3	JOHNY ENGLISH
4	XEREX

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1	X-MEN2
2	TILL THERE WAS YOU
3	WILLARD
4	XEREX
5	JOHNY ENGLISH
6	X-MEN2

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1	TILL THERE WAS YOU
2	XEREX
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	A MAN APART
5	X-MEN 2
6	JOHNY ENGLISH

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1	XEREX
2	X- MEN 2
3	TIL THERE WAS YOU
4	JOHNNY ENGLISH
5	EQUILIBRIUM

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1	X-MEN 2
2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	JUST MARRIED
5	X-MEN 2
6	X-MEN 2

Iloilo

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1	X-MEN2
2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
3	TILL THERE WAS YOU
4	XEREX
5	SHADOW OF VAMPIRE
6	X-MEN 2

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	PUNLA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	PUNLA
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
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A	PUNLA
B	BOLD STAR
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
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CINEMA-2	THE JUNGLE BOOK 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
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CINEMA-2	BOLD STAR
CINEMA-3	A MAN APART
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-7	ANGER MANAGEMENT
CINEMA-8	PUNLA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	JOHNNY ENGLISH
CINEMA-12	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-14	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-15	XEREX
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LANES
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

DiCaprio wins award

LOS ANGELES—The Russian International Film Festival has awarded actor Leonardo DiCaprio its Tower Award for his contribution to world cinema.

DiCaprio, a Russian film aficionado, accepted the award from festival director Stas Namin on Sunday. *AP*

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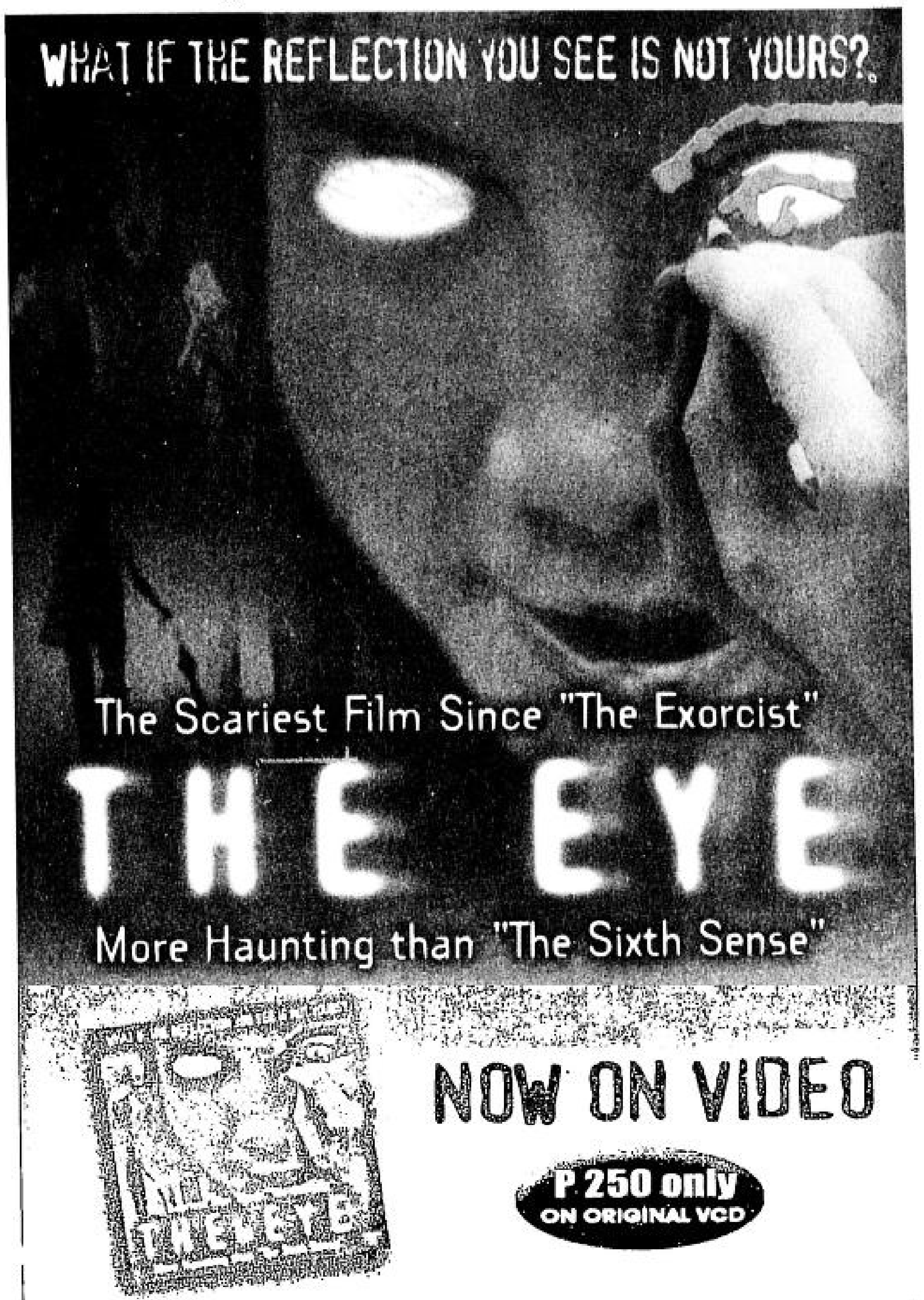
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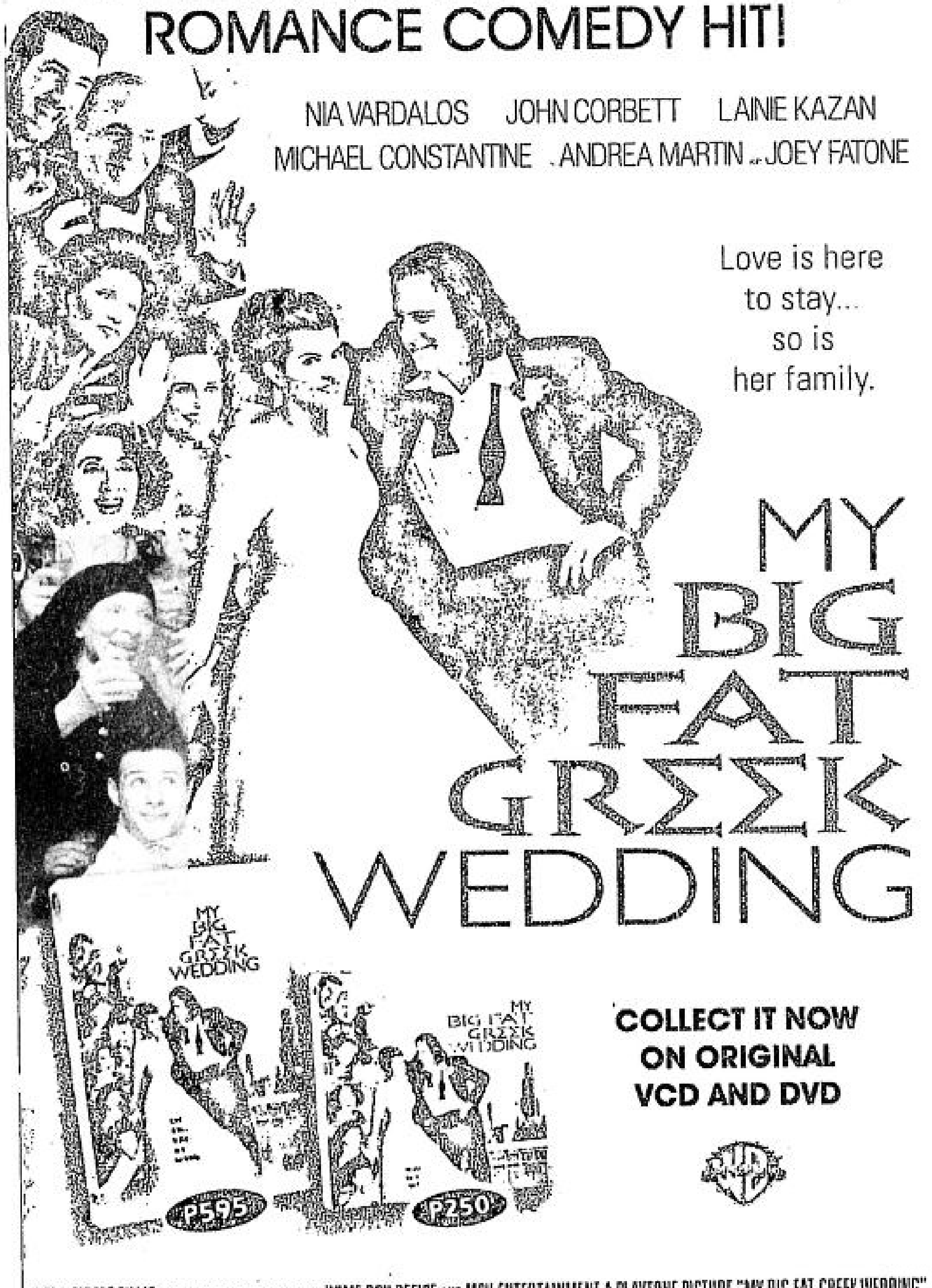
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X-MEN 2
MARVEL

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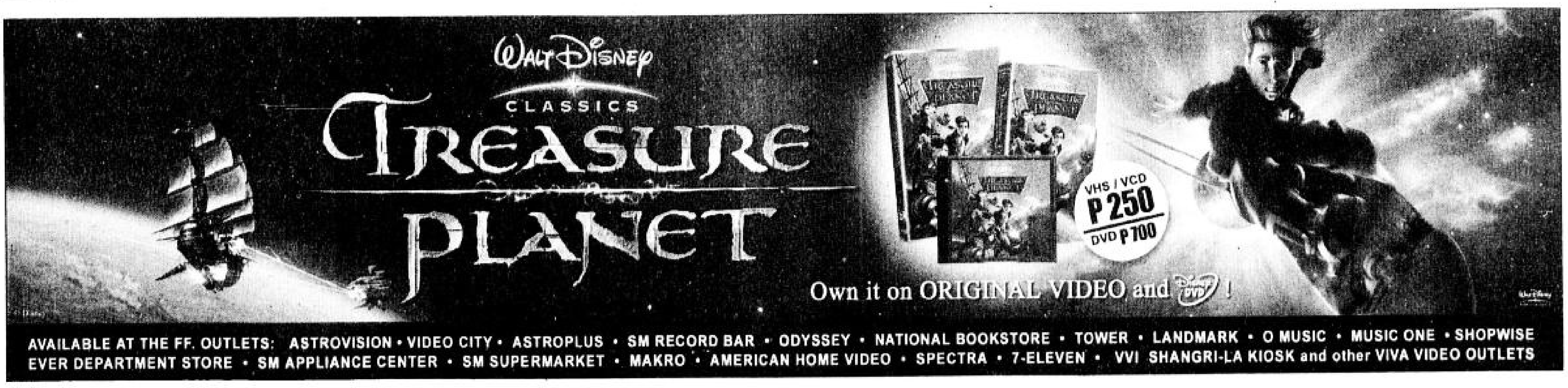

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DreamWorks, NBC plan all-CGI television show

LOS ANGELES—The NBC television network and movie studio DreamWorks on Monday unveiled plans to produce the first-ever series for prime-time TV made fully using computer-generated images like those in hit movie "Shrek."

KATZENBERG. DreamWorks principal partner and "Shrek" producer.

Family comedy

"Father of the Pride" promises to be a family comedy with "cheeky, edgy and ironic" humor that centers on a pride of white lions in the Las Vegas act of Siegfried & Roy. It will debut in Fall 2004, the companies said in a joint statement.

Computer-generated imagery, or CGI as it is called in Hollywood, is fast becoming a darling of movie audiences and a preferred method of animation compared with old-style hand drawings. Films like "Shrek," "Ice Age," "Monsters, Inc." and the "Toy Story" films are all CGI-movies.

"This is the single most important project I've been involved with in two-and-a-half years," said Jeff Zucker, president NBC Entertainment. "The CGI technology is the biggest advance in animation, and finally we can bring it to NBC."

Half-hour series

The half-hour series will revolve around the competition between a family of snooty white tigers and a white lion pride featured in the Siegfried & Roy act.

DreamWorks principal partner and "Shrek" producer, Jeffrey Katzenberg, said "Father of the Pride" puts an "irreverent comedy spin" on show biz icons Siegfried and Roy by seeing their world through the eyes of the animals.

He added that doing a weekly TV series will challenge the studio to stay on the leading edge of CGI technology. *Reuters*

Norah in free show

NEW YORK—Norah Jones and The Roots are among the performers lined up for "100% NYC: A Concert Celebrating the Tribeca Film Festival."

The free show is planned for May 9 in lower Manhattan's Battery Park. MTV and VH1 are sponsoring the concert, and will broadcast it on May 17. Other scheduled musicians and comedians will be announced later.

Jones' debut album, "Come Away With Me," won eight Grammys this year, including album of the year. The pop-jazz singer also won for best new artist and record of the year for "Don't Know Why." *AP*

JONES. Performing with The Roots, among others.

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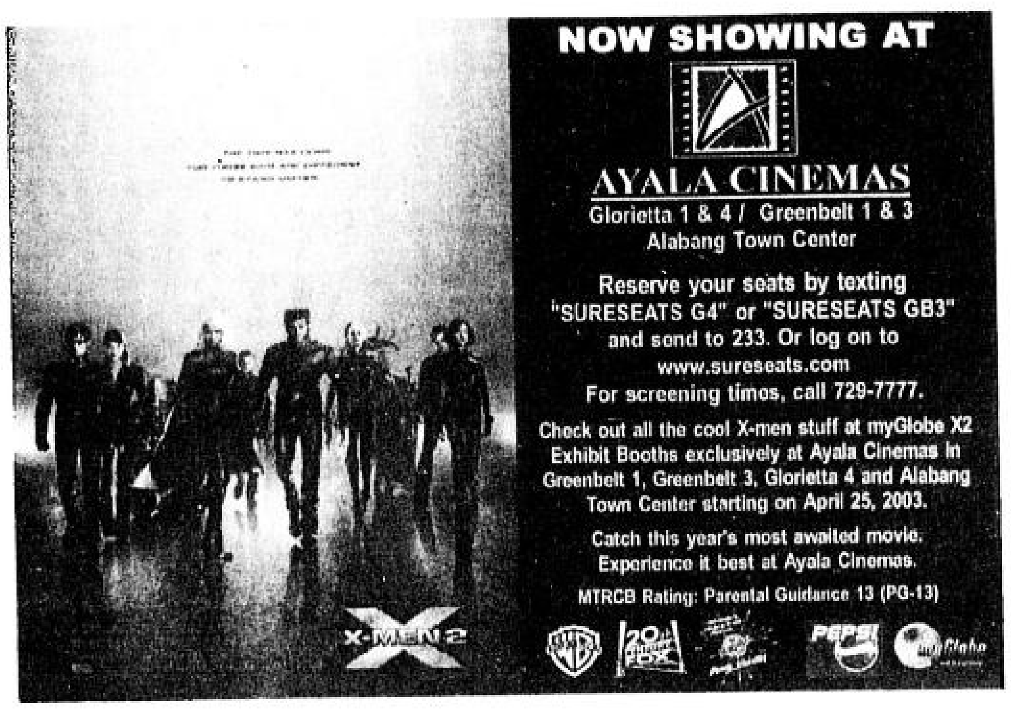

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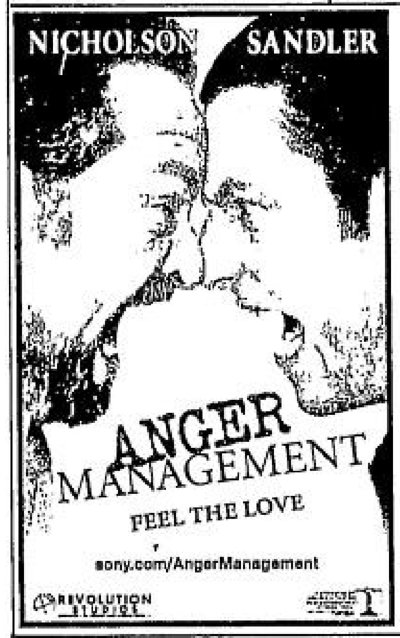

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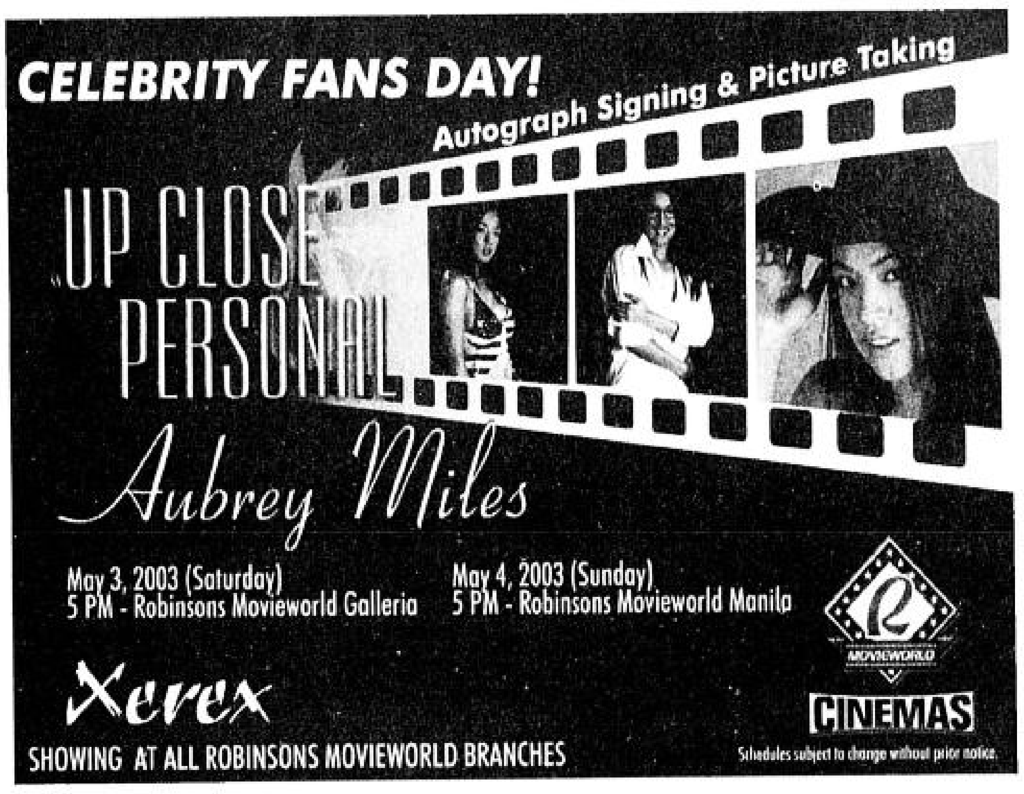

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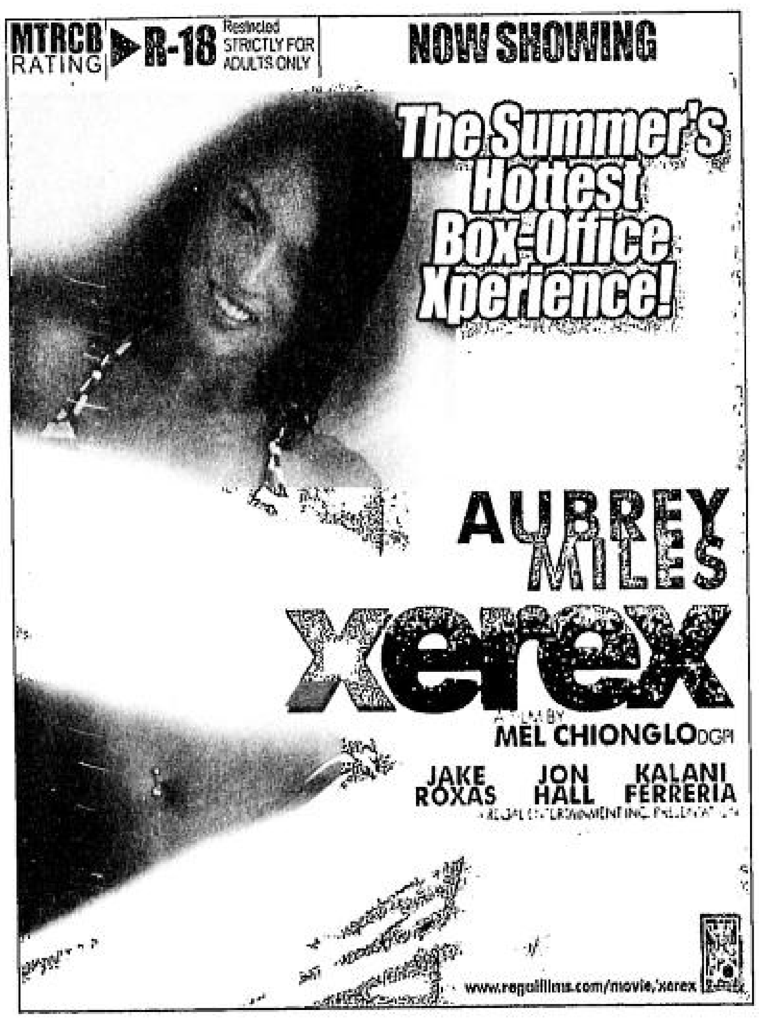

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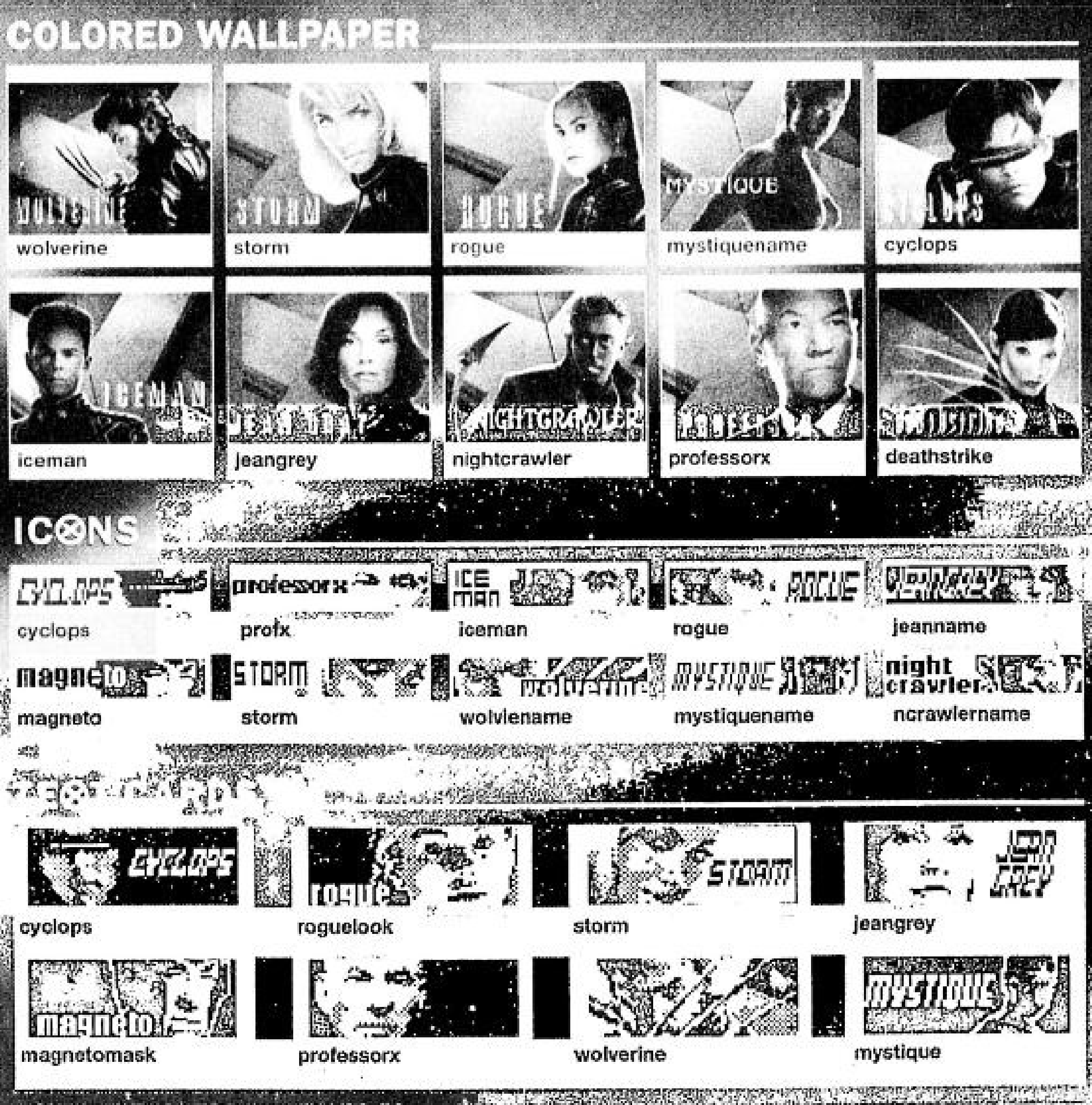
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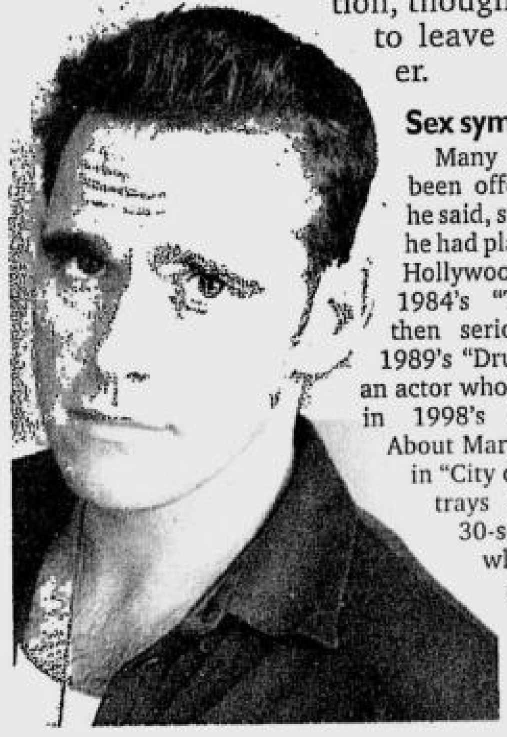
Dillon's 'Ghosts' marks career in transition

By Bob Tourtellotte


DILLON. From teen idol to leading man to comic sidekick.

LOS ANGELES—In just over two decades, his career has gone from teen idol to leading man to comic sidekick. This month, actor Matt Dillon takes on a new role—director, in his film, "City of Ghosts." Dillon, at age 39, said his career is in transition, though he has no plans to leave acting altogether.

Sex symbol

Many 'of the roles he had been offered in recent years, he said, seemed similar to roles he had played since becoming a Hollywood sex symbol in 1984's "The Flamingo Kid," then serious leading man in 1989's "Drugstore Cowboy," and an actor who could play for laughs in 1998's "There's Something About Mary." Not coincidentally, in "City of Ghosts," Dillon portrays Jimmy Cremmins, a 30-something con man who, after an insurance scam he runs comes under an FBI probe, skips New York for Cambodia and undergoes a personal transformation.

Low-budget film

Typically of an independent, low-budget film, "City of Ghosts" plays in major cities across the United States on May 9.

Dillon, who also co-wrote the film with his friend Barry Gifford (author of the novel "Wild at Heart), said what he most enjoyed about writing and directing was watching the parts grow from character sketches to their onscreen incarnations.

The movie features James Caan and Stellan Skarsgard as Cremmins' accomplices, Natasha McElhone ("Solaris") as his love interest and Gerard Depardieu as a French expatriate whose Phnom Penh bar serves as a hangout for foreigners.

"City of Ghosts" opens to a hurricane wracking the Atlantic seaboard, and news of ruined homes and their owners. Cremmins sold bogus policies to the people and funneled the money into a pyramid scheme, never intending to pay claims in a disaster.

When the FBI comes calling, Cremmins heads to Cambodia to cash out from his partners, Kaspar (Skarsgard) and Marvin (Caan), who has been Cremmins's mentor in crime.

Finding Marvin turns out not to be quite as easy as Cremmins thought, and by the time he is located, Cremmins has decided he wants out of the con game altogether. *Reuters*

Who's the better singer, Regine or Lani M.?

By Ronald G. Mangubat

VELASQUEZ. Better songs.

MISALUCHA. Wider vocal range.

IT'S a tough fight but, for argument's sake, we tried to settle the score: Who's the better singer, Regine Velasquez or Lani Misalucha? The germ of the idea came when we overheard a heated argument between six young friends in a quaint coffee shop in Makati.

Informal survey

In the next few days, we did an informal survey and asked 30 people from all walks of life the same question. Twelve respondents are more than 20 years old, seven are in the field of music, 25 have finished college, half are males, and except for two, all are residents of Metro Manila.

Out of 30 respondents, 16 voted for Regine as the best singer while Lani Misalucha got 14 points. They said the former "Bagong Kampeon" champion has a better voice, better songs, is younger and has a kinder and down-to-earth-image.

On the other hand, those who chose the former "Multiplex Queen" said she has a wider vocal range, could sing arias, renders songs in a classier way, and has a better chance to make it internationally.

"Every song that Regine sings, she can give it a new color," says Yvette Reyes, 22, a bank employee."

For Deo Cruz, 18, it's Regine's being able to reach high notes that leaves him in awe of the chanteuse.

But for Melanie Z, 27, a part-time music student, the high notes reached by Regine irritate her. *"Na-i-istress ako pag kumakanta s'ya ng sobrang mataas na nota. Ewan ko, pero sumasakit ang tenga't ulo ko. Pero kay* Lani, *hindi.*

High notes

Melanie also observes that in this country, singers are gauged by their ability to reach high notes, which is not a good gauge.

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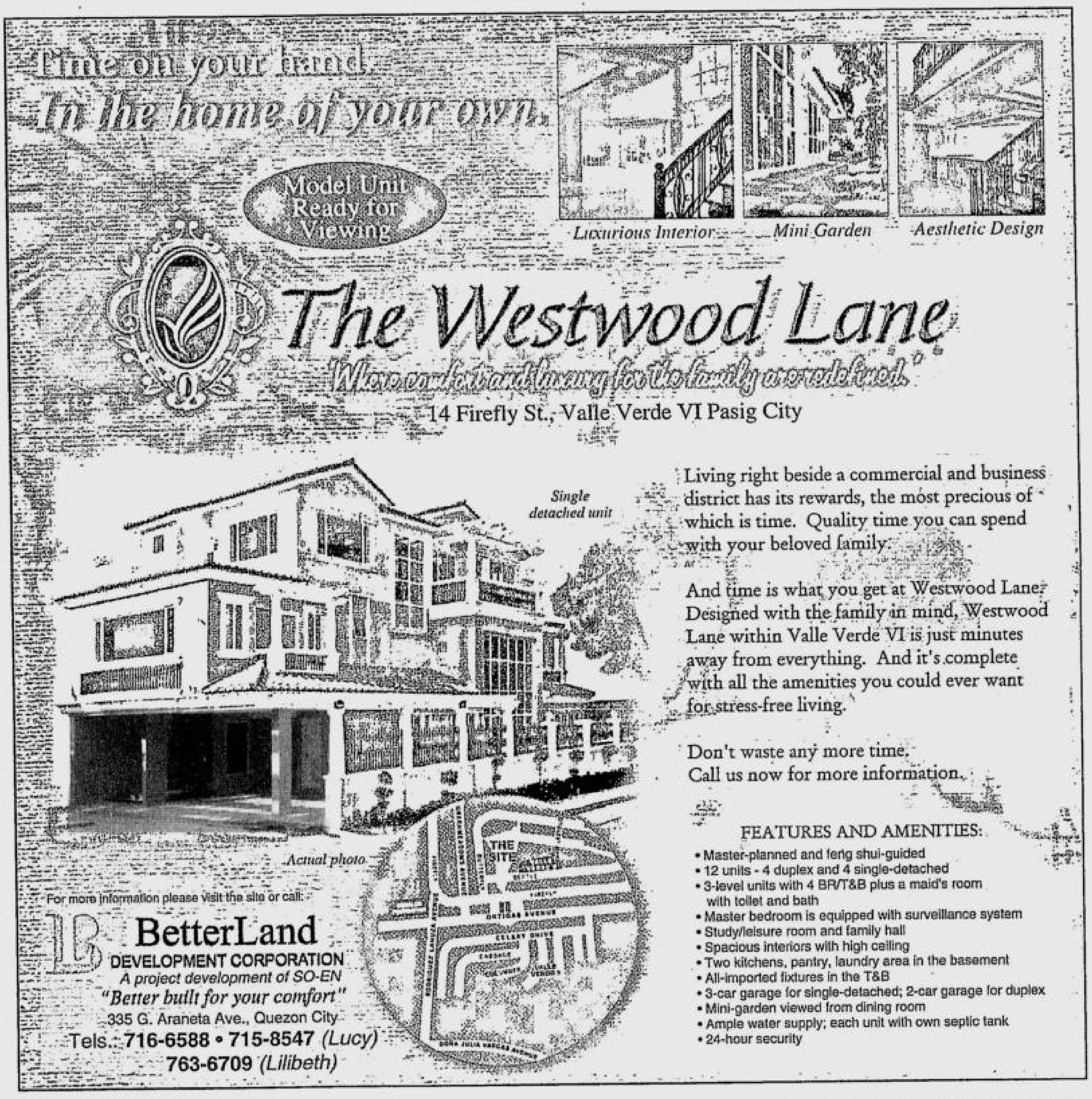
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Hallmark Channel celebrates Mother's Day

GEARING up for Mother's Day this month, the Hallmark Channel screens five films that variously pay tribute to the different roles women play—mother, daughter, lover, sister, friend (all screenings at 9 p.m.):

May 7, "The Yarn Princess." A gritty drama about a woman's struggle to win back her childhood after a judge has ruled that she's an unfit mother.

May 8, "Chasing the Line." A former hardcourt heroine takes over as coach of a high school girls' championship team after its legendary but tyrannical coach has a heart attack.

May 9, "David's Mother." Kirstie Alley is the overly-protective mother of a brain-damaged boy.

May 10, "All She Ever Wanted." A woman suffering from Bipolar Disorder wants to get pregnant despite serious health risks and everybody's objections.

May, 11 "Heart of a Stranger." Jane Seymour is a mother who's given a new lease on life through a heart transplant. After a successful operation, she undergoes remarkable changes and shares the experiences, both good and bad, of her heart donor.

'The Hours'

Finally, film buffs here will soon be able to view the award-winning performance of Nicole Kidman in "The Hours." The film tells the story of three women from different times whose lives are intertwined around the literary masterpiece "Mrs. Dalloway," written by Virginia Woolf.

Kidman plays Woolf, complete with a prosthetic nose to make her look more like the acclaimed novelist.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

The second woman, Laura Brown (Julianne Moore), is a wife and mother living in Los Angeles after the Second World War, who shares Woolf's depression.

And the third is Clarissa Vaughan (Meryl Streep), who live in present-day New York City and is the modern-day mirror image of Mrs. Dalloway.

'Wedding Works'

Every Tuesday at 10:30 p.m. on ABC-5, Channel 5 telecasts "Wedding Works," hosted by wedding coordinator Bangs Zaldivar. The show deals with everything related to weddings, and also features celebrity nuptials and different religions' wedding ceremonies.

'Nasaan si Hesus?'

Tonight, Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel's acclaimed religious musical revue, "Nasaan si Hesus?," will be performed at the Parokya ng Mabuting Pastol in Commonwealth, QC, to raise funds for the construction of a building to house the parish's Credit Cooperative (call 461-3627).

Alumni homecoming

All Ateneo de Tuguegarao alumni are urged to attend a homecoming and reunion in Tuguegarao City on May 3 and 4. Hosts this year are Class 1953 (Golden Jubilarians) and Class 1963 (The Unhatched Eagles). Call 523-3983.

Films on HBO

May 3 at 11 a.m., "Billy Madison." 2:15 p.m., "Gossip." 10:45 p.m., "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein." 12:45 a.m., "In the Name of the Father."

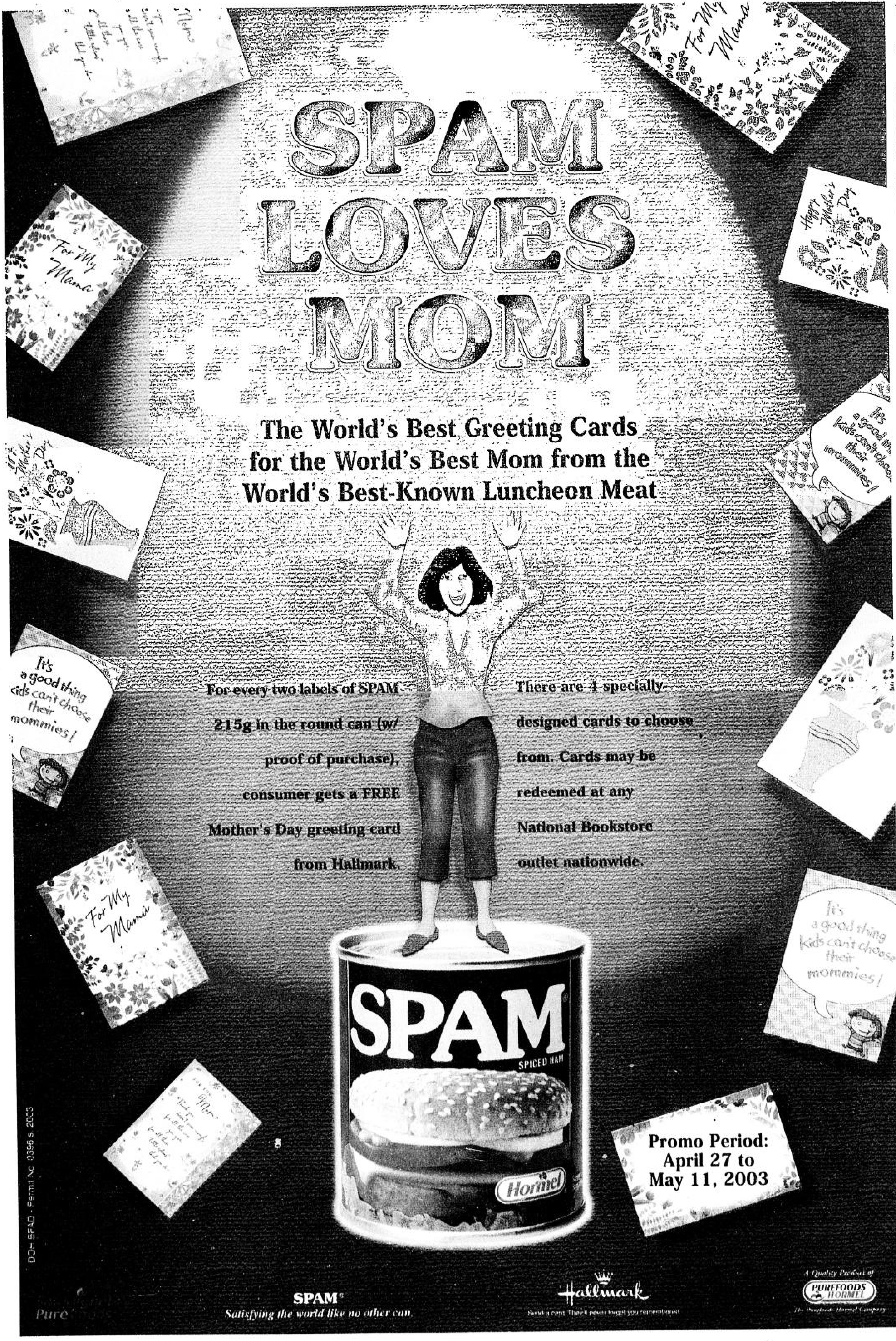
May 4 at 11 a.m., "The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle." 2:30 p.m., "The Client."

'Kontrobersyal'

"Kontrobersyal,' Boy Abunda's new show, debuts on Channel 2 at 10:30 p.m. today. Boy's main guest is Sen. Ping Lacson.

ZALDIVAR (left) interviews Tessa Prieto-Valdes on "Wedding Works."

KIDMAN as Virginia Woolf.



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Who's

From page D1

Singer, performer and writer Andy Bais shares, "I like both singers but Lani's voice is more versatile. She can sing classical pieces and has wider vocal range. But I would like both singers more *kung kakanta naman sila ng di puro birit.*"

"*Para sa akin, pareho silang walang tulak-kabigin,*" says Janet, 35, an events manager, "*Kanya lang,* let's face it, in terms of seniority, *mas matagal sa industriya si* Regine. She has more hit songs, *mas maraming* album and concerts, *may* movies *pa*. For me she's the better singer."

Gerry F., 36, Janet's boyfriend, agrees: "*At saka alam mo naman sa atin, pag mas bata,* the better. And Regine is younger."

"And I think, through the years, she was able to develop her style," explains Malou, 23, a bank employee, "unlike Lani, who merely sings like Whitney Houston or other international or local singers whom she can imitate and impersonate."

Married

"Let's put it this way," he says. "Both are exceptionally good. *Kaya lang, si* Lani, *parang wala ng* mystery *kasi* everyone knows she's married; *si* Regine, *inaabangan talaga namin ang* love life *kasi* single *pa siya.*"

"Whatever they say, Lani Misalucha is still the best singer for me," declares Wilma, 40. "*Yung boses nya, pwedeng mababang mababa at mataas na mataas.* Who among our local singers can sing classical songs like the arias of Maria Callas, *sige nga?*"

"*At ang* class-class *ng dating nya sa akin,*" says Amihan, 28, a grocery store owner, "*lalo na pag bihis na bihis sya. Gandang-ganda ako sa kanya. Palagay ko, dahil dito pwede talaga siyang maging* international singer."

All the respondents, however, agree that the two fabulous singers should have a back-to-back concert. "*Sana, hindi yung* showdown type of concert kasi they have nothing more to prove," suggests Kitty Noble, 29, a music teacher. "*Rather, a* concert where they would complement rather than upstage each other."

Arthur C., 26, drummer, agrees: "I know they're going to make beautiful music together!"

FROM left, Francis Ballarte, Rowelle M. Bercena, Apolinario Bercena, Eric Consulta, Mark L. Javier, Romieray Limaco; (standing) Romel Lagrio, Alvin L. Quemerista, Oliver Consulta, Ruel M. Lagrio, Michael Binaya, Sr. Mary Lyn Panarez, Lydia H. Gregorio and Faustino Moresca Jr., shown here with the computer donated by Zonta Club Manila III.

Charity begins at the Zonta Home

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

WHEN Lydia H. Gregorio first heard about some nuns' projects in their neighborhood church, she felt the need to help.

Problems

As president of Zonta Club Manila III, she is aware of the countless problems facing Philippine society today. So when the nuns of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth approached her, she didn't hesitate to give them her full trust and cooperation.

Today, the sisters are caring for the young wards of two half-way homes: the Holy Family House, which shelters 18 former streetchildren, ages 6 to 11, and Bahay Nazareth, which houses 10 boys, ages 12 to 15—both located in Alabang Hills Village, Muntinlupa.

Displaced

These children were displaced when a road was built in the same area where their families' shanties stood.

When Zonta Club Manila III first deliberated on the matter, Lydia insisted on sponsoring the two homes because she saw in the kids "the nation's future."

"Our dream is to see all 28 boys graduate from high school," Lydia asserts. Aside from monetary assistance, the club has donated an oven, two industrial-size rice cookers, rubber shoes, and a computer set (complete with printer).

The young wards are enrolled in two nearby schools: St. Benedict's College and Our Lady of the Abandoned Catholic School.

They are doing very well in school because the kids are provided a stable, safe and serene home environment.

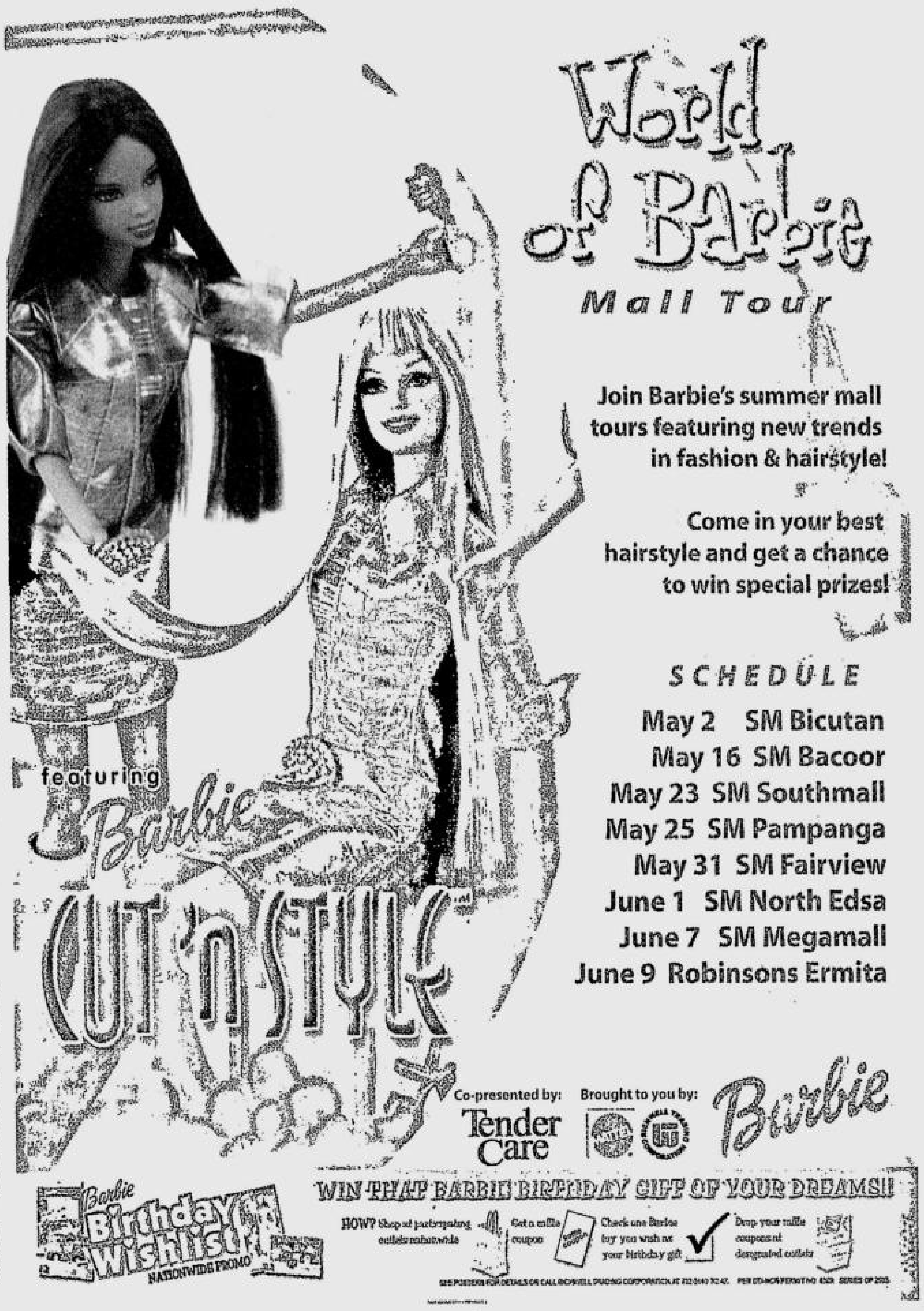
The Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth is at 358 Colombia St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City. The Holy Family House is located at 17 Bacolod St., Alabang Hills Village, Muntinlupa, Metro Manila. Bahay Nazareth's address is 25 Bacolod St., Alabang Hills Village, Muntinlupa, Metro Manila.

* * *

Medical bills

I would like to thank the good samaritans who helped Armina Aimee Acosta pay for her medical bills for a burst appendix at St. Michael Medical Hospital in Molino, Bacoor, Cavite: Juris Soliman of Cemex Phils., P5,000; Lydia H. Gregorio of Zonta Club Manila III, P5,000; photographer Lilen Uy, P5,000; H.O., P5,000; Josephine Jimenez of Eureka Dive Shop, P20,000; Frank Evaristo, P1,000; Maity Araneta Holigores; Tin-Tin Santiago of Murasaki and Steak Factory, P5,000; Chari La'O Bagatsing; Charito Planas.

We would also like to thank the director of St. Michael Medical Hospital, Dr. Yolanda Rodil, for her zealousness during Armina's surgical operation.



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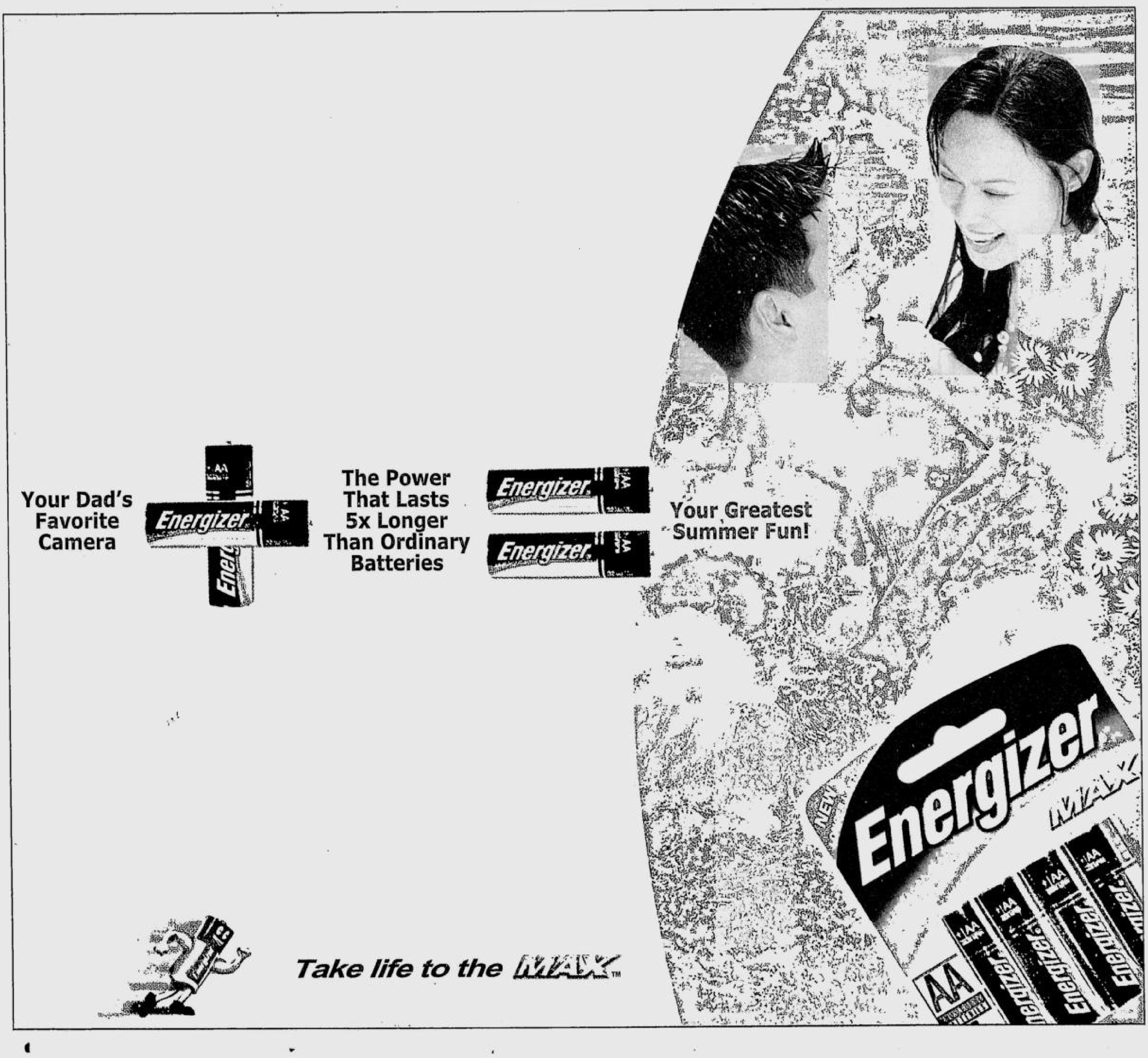

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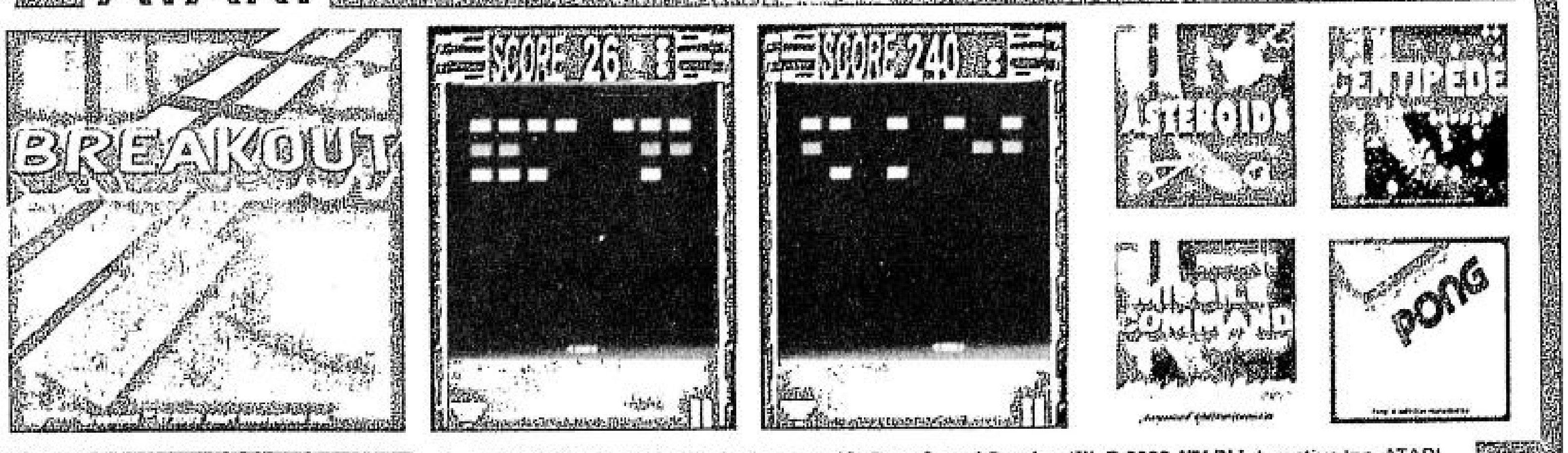

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SATURDAY*Special*

PACINO. Both in films and in the theater, he doesn't hold back. AP

Al Pacino loves acting onstage

By Michael Kuchwara

NEW YORK—For Al Pacino, before "Dog Day Afternoon," "Serpico," "Scarface," "Scent of a Woman" and, of course, "The Godfather," there was a life in the theater. And there still is.

Roots

The actor is one of the few film superstars of his generation who began on stage and still returns—not as often as he would like, but more frequently than Dustin Hoffman or Meryl Streep, both of whom have roots in the theater, too.

In fact, Pacino has more Tonys—two—than Academy Awards (he won an Oscar in 1992 for "Scent of a Woman"). And this season alone, he has appeared twice in major New York revivals.

Last fall, he starred as the dictatorial Chicago gangster in the National Actors Theater's commanding, kinetic production of Bertolt Brecht's "The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui" at Pace University near City Hall. And now, Pacino is on Broadway in a reading of "Salome," Oscar Wilde's perfumed, idiosyncratic take on the biblical tale in which the actor plays King Herod.

He has done Shakespeare—"Julius Caesar" at the Public Theater, "Richard III" on Broadway—and well-received revivals of David Mamet's "American Buffalo" and David Rabe's Vietnam War drama, "The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel."

"Sometimes I wonder why I come back," Pacino says as he relaxes on a sofa in the living room of his high-rise Manhattan office with its cinemascopic view of Central Park.

More comfortable

"I think I would be doing a lot more theater around the country if I didn't have kids (he has 2-year-old twins with actress Beverly D'Angelo). I guess I'm more comfortable in the theater since I started there."

Pacino says he became intoxicated by "Salome"—he knew the Richard Strauss opera but not the play—when he first saw it years ago in England. In 1992, he did a full production at Broadway's Circle in the Square with Sheryl Lee of "Twin Peaks" as Salome.

"Everything that happens in life happens in this play," Pacino says. "And the language carries it into another dimension."

Pacino says this new "Salome" is a full production done in the style of a reading. "We found that this way of approaching it got us closer to what we feel is the play," he explains.

Panther

In some respects, Pacino onstage is like Pacino in the movies. He doesn't hold back. In that off-Broadway revival of "American Buffalo," Pacino paced the stage as if he were a panther, striding in front of the audience as if he were in a cage. "What I felt like at the end of the week was that I wanted to go into a big dark room and just stand there for about four days," he says now with a laugh.

"You've got to put yourself out there," he continues. "If you feel as though you are presenting something to an audience that you feel good about, it takes a little bit of the edge off the fear. You want to communicate this play to them. Serving the play becomes the thing that bails you out of any real stage fright." *AP*

First conquest of Mt. Everest recalled in anniversary special

By Nestor U. Torre

JAMLING Norgay climbed Everest as a tribute to his father, Tenzing.

LAST Sunday night, we made it a point to view "Surviving Everest," the National Geographic Channel's two-hour special on the 50th anniversary of the conquest of the world's highest mountain by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay.

Intriguing twist

The intriguing twist was that the docu would be chronicling the ascent to the top of Mt. Everest by Hillary and Norgay's sons, Peter and Jamling.

Thus, the climb would be the sons' way of paying tribute to their courageous fathers, as well as their attempt to plug into their fathers' wellsprings of courage.

That's a significant, cross-generational theme that appeals to viewers of different ages, and reason enough for us to catch the special presentation.

As the special began telecasting, we saw that one of its strengths was its inclusion of period footage on the original ascent to Everest's summit, a full half-century ago.

Achievement

This footage of Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay on the mountain's slopes prompted us to admire their achievement even more, because we saw that they had minimal mountain-climbing equipment, certainly nowhere close to the high-tech, state-of-the-art gear that their sons used for their own "tribute" climb.

Another unexpected strength of the presentation was its emphasis, not on dramatically compelling vistas of the summit, crevasses, snowfalls and avalanches, but on the anniversary climb's human element.

Thus, the original climbers' sons were presented, not as professional adventurers and sportsmen, but as relatively ordinary men who had just made up their minds to agree to do this extraordinary deed, because they felt they owed it to the memory of their fathers.

Problems

It was a good thing that the documentary took this vulnerable tack, because the climb turned out to be fraught with many all-too-human lapses and problems. Illness overtook the climbers, prompting them to seek refuge in rest stations for some much-needed recovery time.

Mistakes were also made in the actual climb itself, resulting in more delays. Thus, the ascent to the top of Mt. Everest wasn't the glorious triumph it was meant to be.

But we didn't mind the shift at all. In fact, it gave the entire project a human dimension that made the climbers' eventual success all the more admirable.

Sherpas

We also liked the way that the production paid tribute to the often forgotten teams of sherpas who help climbers from the States, Japan and Europe get to the top of the world's highest peak.

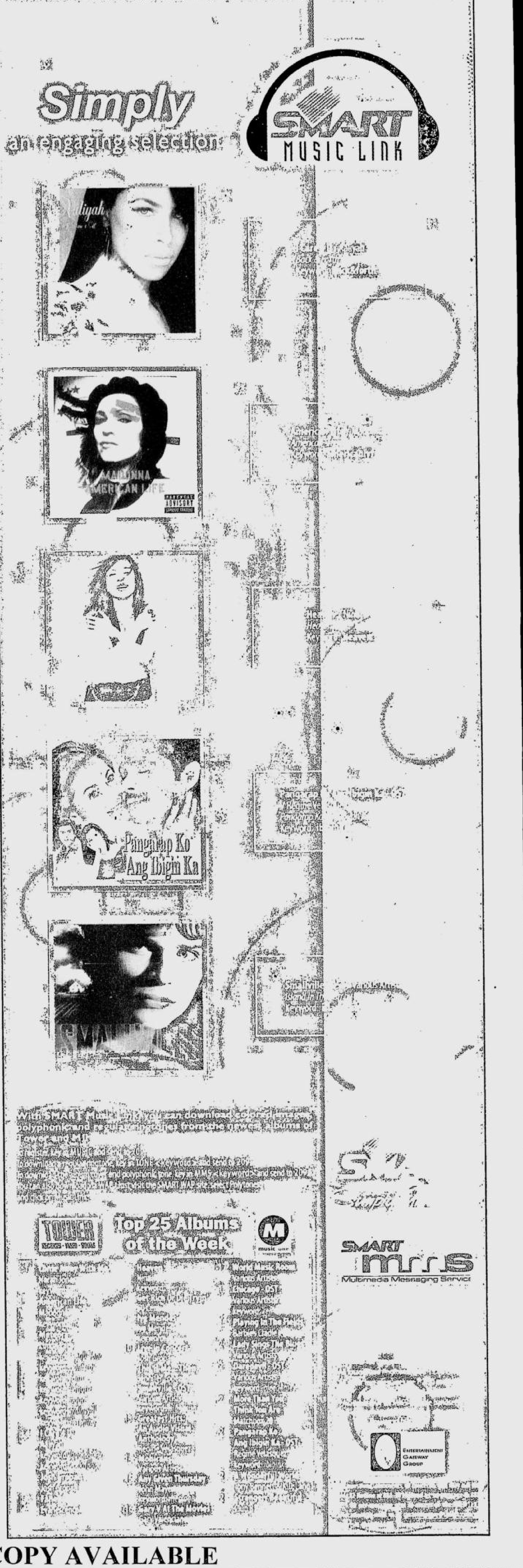
All too often, these sherpas aren't included in media accounts of successful ascents. That's a great injustice because, without them and their expertise, no ascent to the top of Everest would ever succeed.

As the documentary was being telecast, we wondered why, in the face of all those difficulties and life-threatening dangers, so many adventurers wanted to conquer Everest. By the end of the special, no clear, convincing answer was forthcoming.

Foolhardy

In fact, the whole enterprise looked rather foohardly, especially when the show informed viewers that 175 climbers had died in their attempt to reach the top of Everest. Where's the logic there?!

But that's a non-climber talking. To resolute adventurers, those many deaths *are* cautionary, but when push comes to shove, they probably won't discourage some determined souls from trying to reach the top of the world's most inspiring—and daunting—mountain.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

How young viewers can gain access to old films

By Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.

WHY should we preserve our old movies? Why should we screen old movies for today's audiences, particularly our young viewers? It's difficult to convince others about the value of old movies when people are hungry, when people don't see the connection with the past, when leaders are ignorant about culture and development.

Exposure

The task becomes more daunting when their exposure to film is limited to trash. You just can't say, "Don't you know that there is treasure in trash? *May ginto sa basura.*"

Trash is as much a heap of culture as the best of our films. Don't you think that "Uhaw" (1970), one of the films that jumpstarted the production of bomba films in the early '70s, has as much reason to be preserved as a film like, say, Gerardo de Leon's "Ang Daigdig ng mga Api" (1965). That is arguable. But, it is already difficult to convince people about preserving our so-called film treasures, so why complicate the matter?

Anyway, the problem is irrelevant. "Uhaw" and "Ang Daigdig ng mga Api" are lost. Unless film hunters prove me wrong, they are lost *forever*.

To get an idea about what kind of preservation and archival work they do in the United States and other parts of the globe, and how much they value old movies, here's some recent news from the Cinema Journal of the Society for Cinema Studies:

Nitrate prints

"The American Film Institute's National Center for Film and Video Preservation continues to acquire films, including many previously thought to be lost. In 2001, nitrate prints of 13 Finnish films from the 1930s were donated to the collection.

"The 11 features and two shorts date from 1932-1938. Originally produced in Finland, the films were the property of Peter Pairolero, who operated a movie theater in Ramsay, Michigan (a mining town and home to many Finnish immigrants), from the mid-1920s to the early 1950s.

"Pairolero purchased the prints from Carl Salminen, 'an American representative of the Finnish film industry' with headquarters in Duluth, Minnesota. All of the films, including three 'lost' titles, were repatriated to the Finnish Film Archive in Helsinki" (Cinema Journal 41.2: 132).

OUTSTANDING Filipino films like Brocka's "Orapronobis" need to be preserved to remind our young audience that we have a cinematic past we can be proud of.

Here's news about a major studio depositing a collection to a university archive: "The UCLA Film and Television Archive has received a deposit from MGM of more than seven hundred titles, most from American International Pictures (AIP)" (Cinema Journal 41.3: 124).

Registry

Here's news about the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress in Washington: "In December 2001, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington announced the titles of the 25 motion pictures to be added to the National Film Registry. As part of the National Film Preservation Act, the librarian of Congress adds 25 'culturally, historically, or aesthetically' significant motion pictures to the registry every year." (Cinema Journal 41.3:124).

Here's news from New Zealand: "The Last Film Search is a joint project between the Bank of New Zealand and the New Zealand Film Archive, an independent charitable trust and the country's premier moving-image heritage center. The purpose of the project has been to locate and preserve New Zealand films of social and historical significance" (Cinema Journal 41.3: 126).

An essential part of archiving is making the collection of films accessible to interested users. Here's a piece of news about the National Film Preservation Foundation in the US making archival collections available for access:

Showcase

"The National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF) has produced a video/DVD showcase about the preservation work of public and non-profit archives across the country. Through the support of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Pew Charitable Trusts, 18 archives have joined forces with the NFPF to release a sampling of the range of films that survive today through their efforts. "Treasures from American Film Archives" is a 10-hour, four-disc set distributed by Image Entertainment" (Cinema Journal 40.1: 136).

The "Treasures" DVD includes the earliest version of "Snow White" (1916); avant-garde work entitled "Rose Hobart" (1936); documentaries and newsreels, including "The Autobiography of a Jeep"; early American movies, including "Blacksmithing Scene" (1893); early special effects, including "Princess Nicotine" (1909); one-reel dramas, including "The Confederate Ironclad," with a new performance of the original 1912 score; pioneering independent works, including "The Fall of the House of Usher" (1928); and home movies of Groucho Marx, Maine and West Virginia in the 1920s, smalltown Minnesota in the 1930s, and Japanese American communities before World War II.

Important cultural artifact

There is more news of archiving in various parts of the globe. They will only make us drool with envy. And, put us to shame. They are dead serious about an important cultural artifact that happens to be, in this case, old movies. *(To be concluded)*

Mudvayne's 'The End of All Things to Come' is fairly cohesive

By Noelani Torre

WE aren't fans of metal music. All that growing and screaming just isn't our thing, though we have no quarrel with those who find it theirs—as long as they use earphones when we're around.

Metal group

Hence we didn't exactly find ourselves keen to listen to metal group Mudvayne's recently released "The End of All Things to Come" (Epic). (This is the band's second album, eagerly anticipated by nü-metal devotees who consider their first, "L.D. 50," one of the year 2000's "hardest" records.

The new album's first song, "Silenced," is everything you'd expect of metal music—fast, punchy, and loud. We had to take a listening break after it was played, in order to offset the impending migraine brought about by the thought of having to listen to 12 more tracks.

Surprisingly enough, after that disorienting introduction, we didn't find the whole listening experience the headache-inducing one we feared it would be. And it was only after a second listen, and a glance at the lyrics, that we finally understood what the guys were rumbling about in that first track.

Refrain

The song apparently speaks up against the suppression of speech and opinion, and against a greater body's imposing its own opinion on a lesser one. The refrain goes: "Sticker this, censor this, ban this/ We've got something to say/ Police this, condemn this, damn this/ We'll be heard anyway." With all that screaming, they certainly will!

What makes the album not so hard to listen to is its cohesiveness—in themes as well as in sound. The band calls their music "math metal," and though we don't exactly know what that means, having listened to their album, we can conclude that it is something a tad lighter than your usual heavy or "death" metal.

Most, if not all, of the heavy metal music we've been subjected to in the past was of almost ear-bleeding proportions, and though this album is certainly loud, unlike in the others the guys here don't scream bloody murder all the time. They only do so half the time—which means that we can actually understand what they're singing —some of the time!

Mudvayne is a quartet made up of vocalists Chüd, guitarist Güüg, drummer Spüg, and bassist Rü-d. They used to call themselves Kud, Gurrg, sPaG, and Ryknow, and their parents know them as M. McDonough, G. Tribbett, C. Gray, and Ryan Martinie. The reason for the strange names? (And do they know that their sobriquets are like the sounds of regurgitation?)

New look

The group says that they don't take themselves seriously, hence the nonsensical handles. And it's not just their names that they've changed, the band also has a new look for this album, and they say that they plan to revamp their image periodically so that their fans won't get bored.

They used to get all dolled-up with weird face paint. When they accepted their MTV2 Video Award in 2001 (for "L.D. 50"'s "Dig" video), they all looked as though they had gunshot wounds in the head. Now, on "The End of All Things to Come," they've given themselves an extraterrestrial make-over that's really something to see. (Rolling Stone magazine thought it was "far more amusing than the music.")

Angst is the feeling that holds this album together—loads and loads of it. This is something that Mudvayne has in common with all the other heavy metal bands. They rage against society, the world, an abstract larger force, and themselves—resulting in a totally bleak album that doesn't hold out any hope of reform or redemption.

If we were to have any favorites among the 12 tracks, they would probably be "Not Falling," "World So Cold," and "12:97:24:99."—The last, because it's nothing more than a puzzling 11 seconds of silence, a very welcome break from all the screaming and pounding!

Catchy rhythm

"Not Falling," meanwhile, is a big song that has a lot going for it—melody, roughly powerful vocals, a catchy and interesting rhythm, and some really excellent guitar. Its sentiments are also expressed better, lyric-wise, compared to the others. The song articulates the on-edge but still upright position that most people struggle to hold in modern society. As the refrain chants: "I . . . I stand, not crawling, not falling down."

The band members themselves admit that "Not Falling" is their unnamed title track of sorts, the "sun" of the "solar system" that is their album. As for the title track, "The End of All Things to Come," we were more than a little put off by its advocacy of anarchy and mass murder. And it wasn't particularly better musically, either.

"World So Cold" is slow—slower than usual, anyway—and for once, sadness seems to be more prevalent than anger. Some of its lines are telling, such as this plaint of troubled (more Western than anything) youth: "Why does everyone feel like my enemy,/ Don't want any part of depression or/ Darkness, I've had enough."

VCD

To get a better picture of the group, one should take a look at the VCD that comes with the album. Here we see Mudvayne transforming themselves into space monsters, explaining their concept (they actually sound like professors at times), and generally just clowning around (warning: there's a few seconds of butt exposure somewhere).

There are also two tracks included here that aren't in the album—"Goodbye" and "On the Move." The former is their sole song that has no growling whatsoever—straight singing, in other words—while the latter is as hard as their hardest.

Mudvayne still has some distance to go, but they seem to know what they want to sound like, and they do have talent. Though metal music still isn't our particular cup of tea, we've learned to appreciate it a little through this album.

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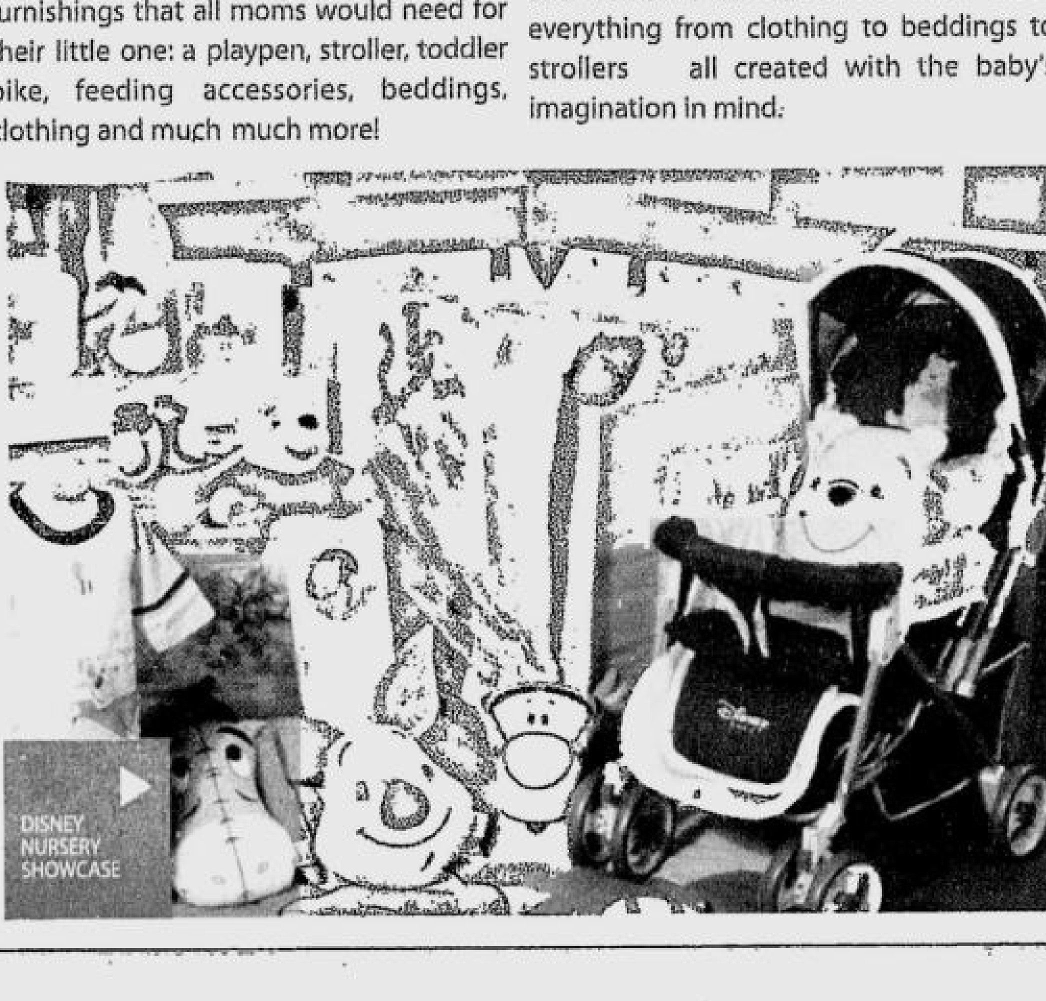

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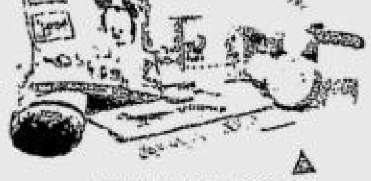

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MARTIN AND REGINE. A night-long explosion of topnotch performances.

Martin on performing with Regine: 'It's intimidating. Her voice is unbelievably strong. I have to be a very secure singer'

Two powerful voices 'collide' at Araneta Coliseum, May 9-10

By Edmund L. Sicam

A "COLLISION" of two powerful voices is how Martin Nievera describes his back-to-back concert with Regine Velasquez on May 9 and 10 at the Araneta Coliseum. Unlike other collisions, however, this one is't expected to result in injuries, but in a night-long explosion of topnotch performances.

US tour

Their May performances are a continuation of their five-city US tour last month. For the Philippine shows, Martin says they are doing a different repertoire from the ones they did in the States.

Recently, he and Regine got together with musical director Gerard Salonga to discuss the line-up of songs. For the US tour, they had Louie Ocampo as musical director. However, for the Philippine concerts, Louie had other commitments and so they signed on Gerard for the job. Martin says that even if this is the first time for him and Gerard to work together, they hit it off right away.

Martin excitedly shares the audience reaction in their US concert tour when they packed their repertoire with one powerful song after the other: "People left the venue like they were in a trance. It was, like, too much! It was like thunder and lightning and the rain never stopped!"

Breakers

Regine has thought up a little gimmick for the Philippine concerts. Martin likes to call it a breaker. "*Kami kasi ni* Regine, we're both balladeers and powerful singers. When we met with Gerard, we chose songs *na bagay sa mga boses namin*, so you won't see dancers, fire eaters, and things like that. You'll see two people really singing, a collision of voices!"

So instead of having a production number as a "breaker," they are going to have mini-*telesines*. In these breakers, they will be acting out different shades of love, romance and conflict, with Martin and Regine in the lead roles.

No clash of personalities

So, with two big stars together in a concert, won't there be a clash of egos or personalities? And how to solve the problem of billing? (Martin's name precedes Regine's in the posters.) Both claim to have no problem with billing. "As long as my name is first...," kids Martin. Regine says she does not mind if Martin is billed first, "No, *kasi*, seniority . . ." and everyone breaks into laughter.

Martin describes how it is to perform with Asia's Songbird. "You know, it's intimidating to perform with someone like Regine. I have to be a very secure singer and I'm sure a lot of people feel the same way." Thus, Martin says that when he is onstage with Regine, he feels like he is the greatest performer in the world.

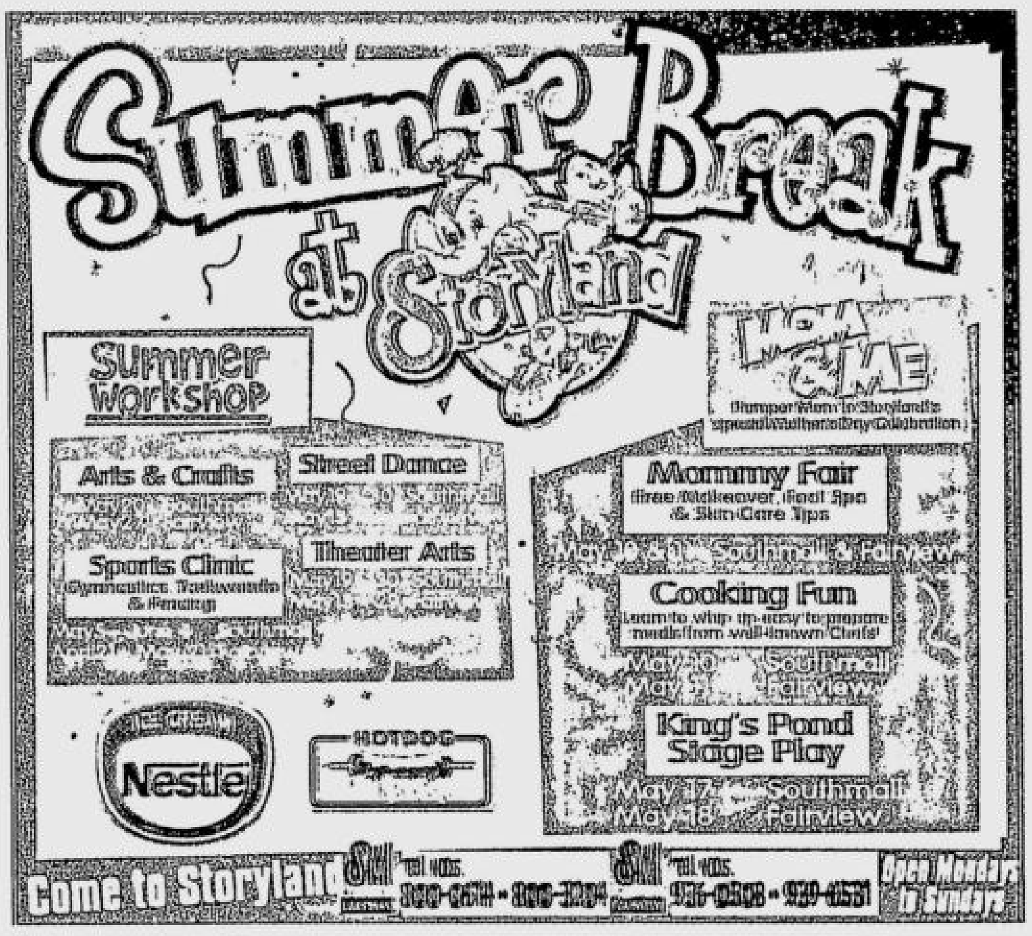
Martin continues: "Her voice is unbelievably strong. I don't know how she does it! I'm trying to find where the voice comes from because I'm in the gym, I'm in the steam room, and she just walks onto the stage, sits on the stool, sound check, and she blows you away! You know? Where is this voice coming from?"

Martin shares a tip that he has learned from performing with Regine the past weeks. "You just have to know, when you get onstage with Regine, she's got the dominant voice. You just have to work around it. If you try and fight her, forget it. I will do the talking, she'll do the screaming. What a great show!"

Mutual admiration

We ask them if they find each other physically attractive. "Oh yeah!" Regine answers right away. Martin is asked why he didn't court Regine. "You told me I'm not your type, you said right away!" Martin tells Regine. "You said, 'Yech! It's like kissing my father, forget it!'"

Martin says that Regine is one of the sexiest performers in the Philippines. "She walks like she's in army clothes, or in an armored suit, but she's wearing a negligee! She's like Victoria's Secret in armor! She is sooooo sexy!"



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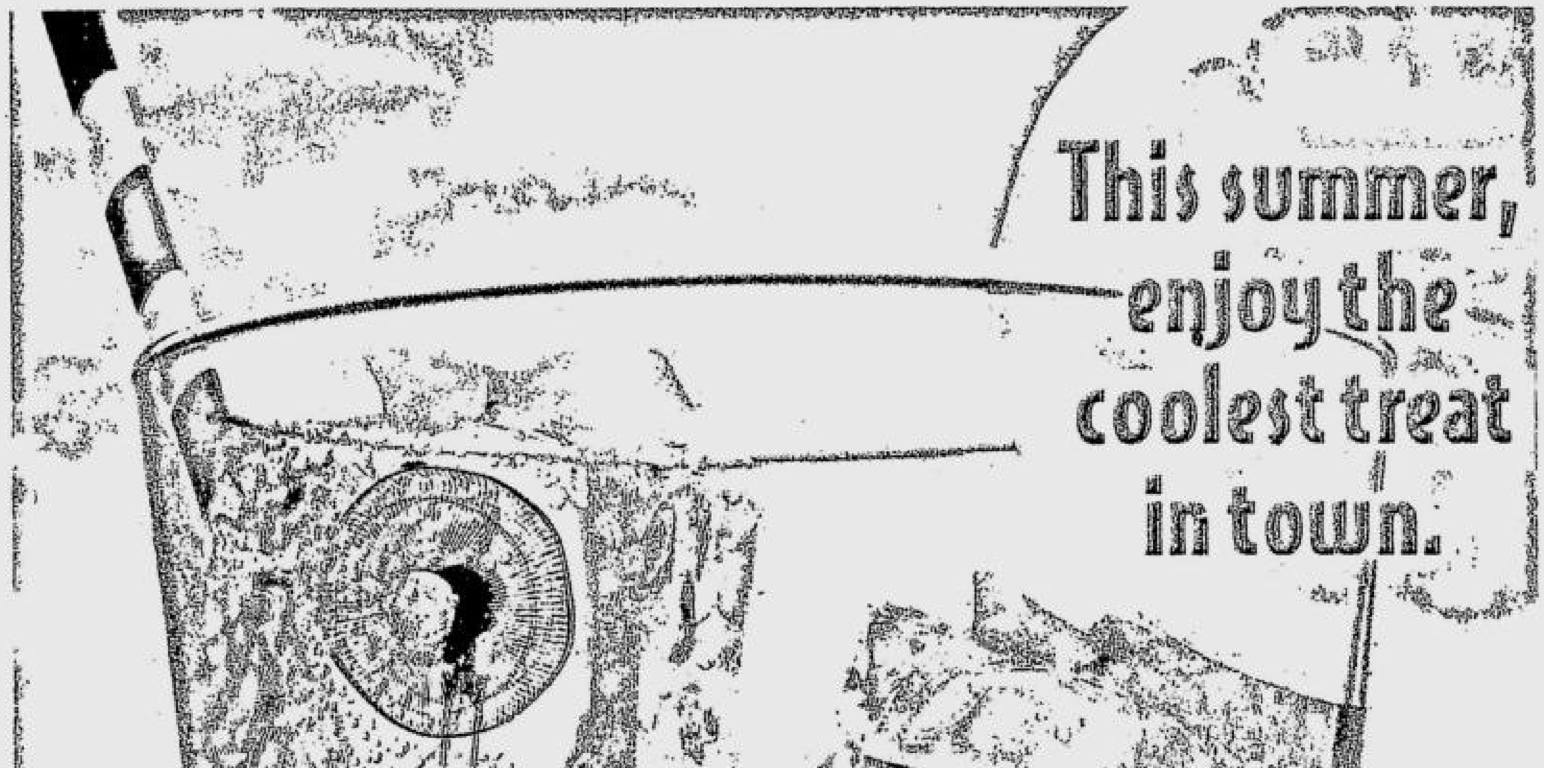

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Julie Taymor comes into her own as theater-film director

By Nestor U. Torre

JULIE Taymor first took the entertainment world by storm with her highly creative, visual and original staging of "The Lion King" as a musical on Broadway. Thus did she serve notice that a major new directing talent had arrived, and producers eagerly paid attention.

It can be said that Taymor is like Sam Mendes, who also caused an initial stir with his arresting direction of the revival production of "Cabaret" in London.

Oscar

Before he knew it, he was being tapped to direct not just theater pieces but films as well, leading all the way up to his winning an Oscar for his direction of the film, "American Beauty."

Similarly, after "The Lion King" achieved its singular success, Taymor made her feature-film directorial debut in 1999 with "Titus," her filmization of Shakespeare's "Titus Andronicus," for which she also wrote the adapted screenplay.

Sterling reputation

"Titus" may have been Taymor's first feature film, but her sterling reputation had already preceded her, so big and respected stars like Anthony Hopkins and Jessica Lange agreed to play major roles in the neophyte's debut production.

"Titus" is currently showing in town and has impressed viewers with its edgy visuals, "operatic" staging and excitingly shifting period paradigms.

Clearly, Taymor is not just a theater sensation, but is also to the film manner born. Confirming this impression is the discovery that, unknown to many, she has been making movies since 1993!

TAYMOR. Few people know that she's been making movies since 1993.

To clarify: she didn't make a feature film then, but a movie about an opera that she directed. Yes, Taymor has been staging operas in her inimitable way for years.

Taymor's first opera direction was of Stravinsky's "Oedipus Rex" for the Saito Kinen Orchestra in Japan, under the baton of Seiji Ozawa in 1992. Her film of the opera premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and won the Jury Award at the Montreal Festival of Films on Art.

Emmy Award

The film was broadcast internationally in 1993, winning an Emmy Award and the 1994 International Classical Music Award for best opera production.

Fact is, even before her opera film, Taymor had come up with her "official" first film. This was in 1992, when she megged "Fool's Fire," a short adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's short story, "Hop Frog."

Produced by American Playhouse, it premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and aired on PBS in March 1992. The film won the "Best Drama" award at the Tokyo International Electronic Cinema Festival.

So, the word's out: Taymor was good and ready when the film of "Titus" beckoned—therefore, its success shouldn't surprise anybody. Ditto for her direction of her second feature, "Frida."

Perfect fit

Another unique project, "Frida," the similarly surreal film on the tempestuous and controversial art and life of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, has turned out to be a perfect fit for Taymor's ability to apply her keenly visual imagination to breathtakingly colorful narratives.

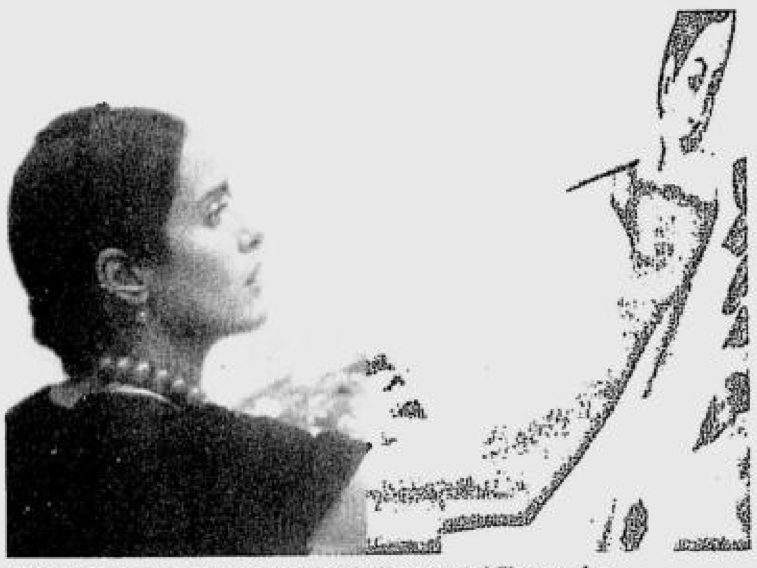
Salma Hayek, "Frida's" star and producer, agrees: " As woman and artist, Julie has the experience and imagination to understand Frida's very special world. She knows how to show Frida's pain, what she's thinking and feeling behind her paintings, *through* those paintings."

In other words, "Frida" is all of a piece because Taymor has been able to find corollaries and even objective correlatives between its protagonist's life and her artworks.

Complexity

Taymor herself shares that she got interested in directing "Frida" because of the complexity of the artist's relationship with her husband, the similarly acclaimed muralist, Diego Rivera. "Theirs is a very in-depth, beautiful, tormented and funny love story," she exclaims. "Their story's power is that the true depth of their love transcended their broken promises and numerous infidelities."

The success being enjoyed internationally by "Titus" and "Frida" augur well for Taymor's directing career. Is there another film in her horizon? Yes, but first she's directing a new production of "The Magic Flute" for the Metropolitan Opera next year.



SALMA Hayek in Taymor's "Frida," a surreal film on the tempestuous and controversial art and life of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo.

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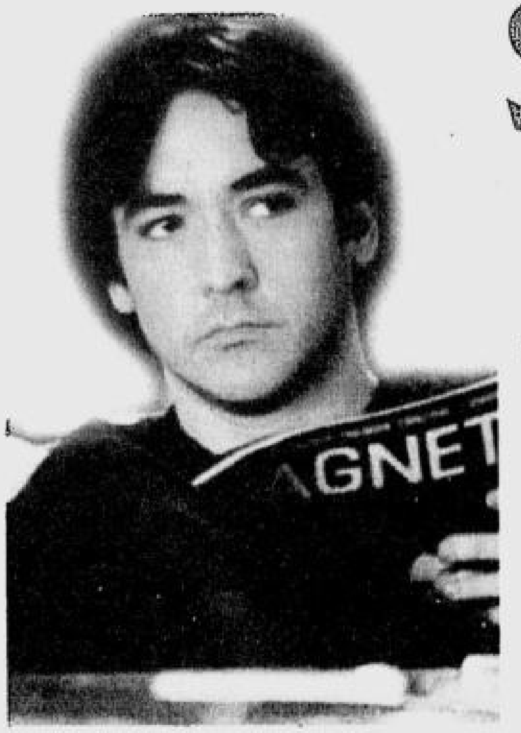
'Identity' leads US box office



CUSACK. His latest starrer has edged "Anger Management" out of the top slot.

By Dean Goodman

LOS ANGELES—The ensemble thriller "Identity," starring John Cusack and Ray Liotta, ended the two-week reign of the comedy "Anger Management" at the North American box office on Sunday.

"Identity" earned about $17 million in its first three days of release, while "Anger Management," starring Adam Sandler and Jack Nicholson, slipped to No. 2 with $16 million. Both were released by Sony Corp.'s Columbia Pictures.

Lowest level

Overall ticket sales fell to their lowest level in more than five months, as the studios bided their time before the unofficial kick-off of the lucrative summer season this weekend with preordained blockbuster "X2: X-Men United." According to tracking firm Exhibitor Relations, the top 12 movies grossed $78.6 million, down 11 percent from last weekend, but up nine percent from a year ago. The previous low of $68.5 million was recorded last Dec. 6-8.

The top 10 contained three other new releases, which turned in modest results at best. Best of the bunch was "Confidence," a crime thriller starring Edward Burns and Dustin Hoffman, which opened at No. 5 with $4.8 million. The movie, which cost about $15 million to produce, was released by Lions Gate Films, a unit of Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.

'IDENTITY'/ F2

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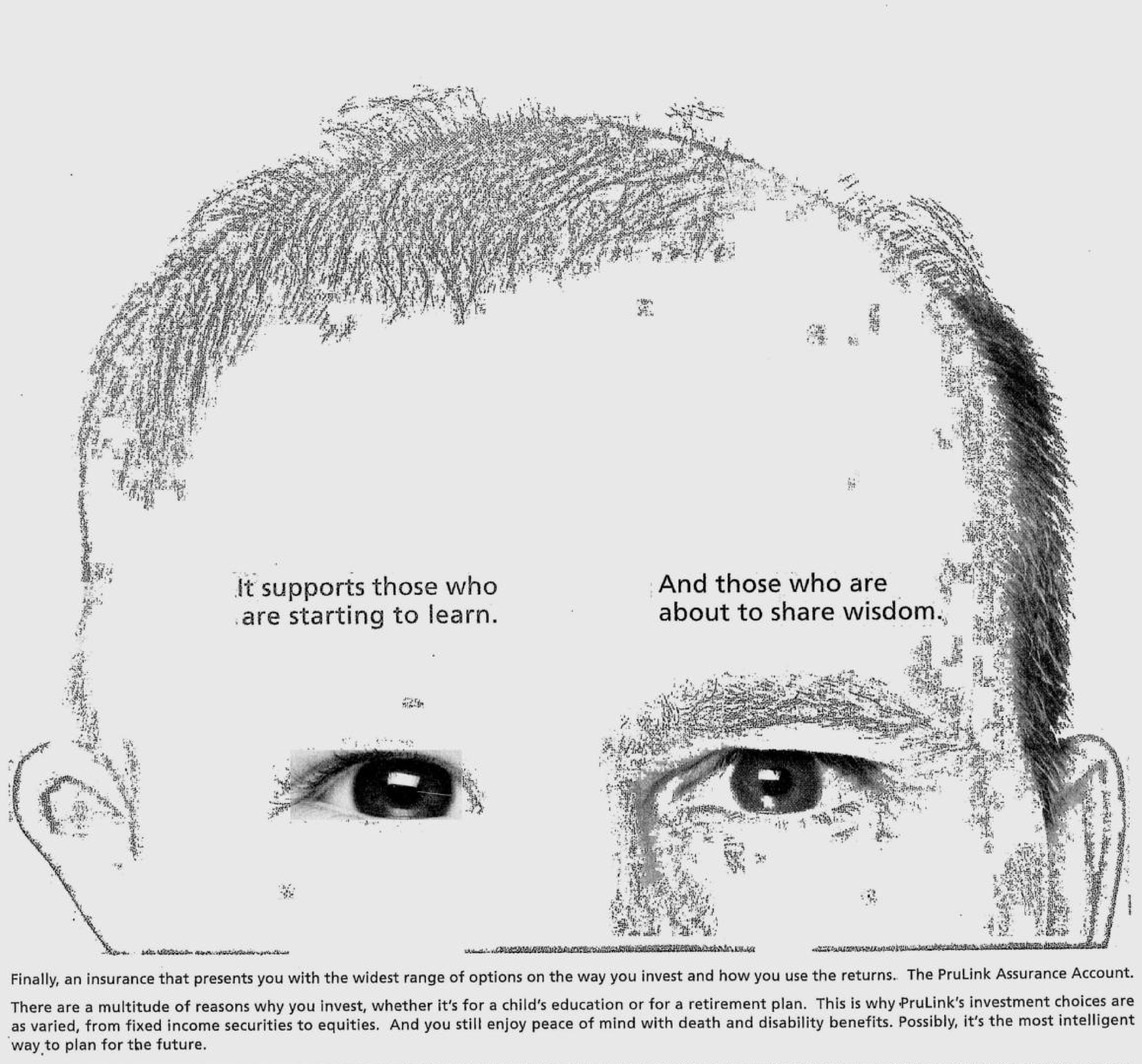
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'Teysi' looks good on its new timeslot

TOMAS. Expert hosting and interaction with guests.

By Nestor U. Torre

WE think it's a good idea that Channel 2's mid-morning show, "Teysi," has been moved to an earlier 8 a.m. timeslot, right after "Magandang Umaga, Bayan."

Perky follow-up

Tessie Tomas' show is a perky follow-up to ABS-CBN's signature early-morning program, and a good lead-in for the channel's mid-morning segment of shows for children, before "Morning Girls" telecasts at 10:30 a.m.

Last Monday, we tuned in to "Teysi" and liked its varied mix of guests and topics—comedians, plate-painting, dramatization of a problem sent in by a viewer, etc.

However, an early turn-off was the show's use of leggy dancers to enliven its proceedings. Dancers at 8 a.m.? There are *other* ways to perk up a show that is watched mainly by stay-at-home women and little children.

The plate-painting feature was OK, but could have been made more instructive. It featured a rather dry annotator, so Tessie had to work harder to keep the portion interesting.

Career woman

As for the "problem dramatization" feature, it focused on a career woman who kept postponing her marriage to her fiancé, until he got tired of waiting and got hitched to her friend.

The dramatization was spoiled by its use of uncharismatic and rather inept actors. Tessie's show *must* use better performers to make its dramatizations believable and empathetic.

A moment of inadvertent comedy: the show referred to the day's letter-sender as "a successful career woman *na sawi sa pag-ibig.*" What a funny-pathetic caption!

For the most part, last Monday's show concentrated on its comedian-guests—Palito, Mahal, Tiya Pusit and Whitney Tyson. Palito and Mahal came through best of all.

Amusing

Palito was amusing because he didn't really try to be super-funny. He just reacted naturally to things that were being done or said, and his reactions were pleasantly relaxed and droll.

For her part, pint-sized Mahal was likable because she smiled a lot and didn't resort to slapstick. On the other hand, Whitney and Tiya Pusit kept pushing their comedy routines, to minimal comic effect.

Slapstick

Our comedians really have to learn that cross-eyed looks and slapstick have long exhausted their welcome even with the local audience, despite it's being so slow on the uptake when it comes to new developments in comedy.

Despite the show's ups and downs, Tessie kept the proceedings on even keel with her expert hosting and interaction with guests. She knows how to keep things interesting without becoming too racy for such an early timeslot—something that some of the hosts of even earlier programs are clueless about.

Talented newcomers

What's next for T.T.? We hope that, now that she's revived her performing career, she will do a new live, stand-up comedy show this year. Even better, she could do it with some really talented newcomers, to give their careers a boost. We'd be happy to introduce her to some of them.

P.S. Last Thursday morning, we caught part of the "Teysi" show again, and the guests were talking about male and female sexuality. Now, *that's* too racy for a morning show! The adults and kids at our breakfast table all complained, and we had to switch channels.

We trust that, in future, "Teysi," gets a clearer sense of what it can and can't tackle or show at 8 a.m.!

Gary V makes his audience feel young

By Jocelyn Valle

IT'S way past nine on a Friday night, and mixed groups of adults, teens and kids find the labyrinthine way inside Star City's Aliw Theater. The voiceover announcer tells everybody to settle down, as Gary Valenciano's concert is about to start.

Behind the curtains

We decide to check out the action behind the curtains to see how Mr. Pure Energy prepares for a grand entrance:

In a corner, there's a tall figure making some familiar Gary V moves. Upon closer inspection, we realize it's Gary's son Gabriel. Each of his three kids has inherited one of his talents. The eldest, Paolo, is into filmmaking (though he tackled one of the lead roles in Trumpets' recent restaging of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"), while daughter Kiana loves to sing.

Passionate

Middle child Gab, 14, is passionate about dancing. It's not just a hobby, it's his life. At La Salle Greenhills, where he studies, he's been seen moving rhythmically while erasing the blackboard.

He's become a regular in Gary's concerts, performing side by side with the headliner, and he now shares a dressing room with his famous dad.

It's guest artist Pam G's turn to perform. As she sings her second number, Gary emerges from his dressing room and quietly finds a spot near the entrance. He appears reflective, changing his stance only when Pam G exits. He gives his fellow Genesis talent a warm smile.

GARY (center) with his children— from left, Gab, Kiana and Paolo.

The consummate concert and recording artist takes a deep breath as his name is announced. The audience greets him with overwhelming cheers and shrieks. It's been 20 years since Gary burst onto the entertainment scene, and he clearly remains popular with music fans.

Repertoire

Well, it helps that Gary is also one the most inventive artists in the biz. His repertoire for the Aliw Theater show consists of some Gary V hits ("Get Down," "Take Me Out of the Dark" and "Shout for Joy"), his versions of songs by American singers ("Spain," "I Will Be Here" and "Warrior Is a Child") and Freddie Aguilar's "Anak" (Gary does this in different languages).

Gary also dishes out a couple of current radio favorites, "Kailangan Kita" and Vanessa Carlton's "A Thousand Miles."

Bringing the house down are his medley numbers of '80s dance tunes ("Call Me," "Take on Me" and "Head Over Heels"), another set of '80s hits using voice effects ("Sweet Dreams," "Every Breath You Take," "Everybody Wants to Rule the World"), and some requested songs.

For his encore, Gary calls back Gab, who earlier danced "Get Down" with him, to do N'Sync's "Pop." As father and son make similar grooves, we wonder if Gary looked like Gab when he was 14.

We get a clue as Gary does a medley of his movie theme songs. A clip of "Hotshots," from which his early hit "Reaching Out" was culled, showed a skinny boy in colorful garb and beret.

Gab definitely looks more physically developed than his dad then. Gary has since become more muscular but he has also retained his youthful spirit. He makes his audience feel young as they squeal in delight while singing and dancing along with him.

'Identity' leads . . .

From page F1

Comedy

"It Runs in the Family," the first on-screen collaboration between Michael Douglas and his father, Kirk, flopped at No. 9 with $3 million. The comedy, which also stars Michael's mother and son, was released by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc, whose exposure was less than $7 million.

It was followed at No. 10 by "The Real Cancun," a reality film revolving around a group of drunk and horny kids on spring break, with $2.3 million. It was released by New Line Cinema, a unit of AOL Time Warner Inc.

Rounding out the top five were the family adventure "Holes" at No. 3 with $13 million, and the comedy spoof "Malibu's Most Wanted" at No. 4 with $7.7 million, both down one slot from their bows last weekend. "Holes" was released by Walt Disney Pictures, a unit of Walt Disney Co; and "Malibu's Most Wanted" by AOL Time Warner's Warner Bros. Pictures.

In Agatha Christie style, "Identity" revolves around a group of strangers who are knocked off one by one when they are stranded for the night at a remote motel. The $28 million film, directed by James Mangold, also stars Amanda Peet, Alfred Molina, Clea DuVall and Rebecca DeMornay.

Less impressed

Columbia's domestic distribution president, Rory Bruer, described it as "scary with a brain," but critics were less impressed. The Hollywood Reporter said the screenplay was "one of the most ludicrous . . . in recent memory."

"Anger Management" passed the century mark on Saturday, and its total now stands at $104.5 million after just 17 days. Bruer said it has a shot at reaching $150 million. "Holes" has earned $36.8 million and "Malibu's Most Wanted" $24.2 million, both after 10 days.

"Confidence," directed by James Foley, stars Hoffman in an unusual role as a flamboyant crime boss who oversees a major heist. Rachel Weisz and Andy Garcia also star. The film played strongest to audiences aged 25-54, and 78 percent of all viewers rated it as very good or excellent, said Lions Gate distribution president Tom Ortenberg. He expected it to end up with about $15 million, matching its budget.

About 75 percent of the audience for "It Runs In The Family" were aged over 35, said Eric

'IDENTITY'/F4

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM MAY 3 - MAY 9

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	15
	6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8:00 Arriba, Arriba 9.00 Fiftyiesta Cinema 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	5:00 PBA Games 7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 The Working President 9:00 14th Asian Games 2002 (Replay) 10:00 Tour Pilipinas 11:00 Business and Leisure	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Go For Gold	6:00 Dragon Ball Z 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9.00 Saturday Night Playhouse	5:00 PBA Provincial Game 8.00 Amazing Twins 9.00 To Be Announced 10:00 Bakbakan sa Maynila	6:00 Combat Mission 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	5:30 CBS Evening News 6.00 E! News Weekend 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8.00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11.00 Wild On
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 Dong Puno Tonight 12.00 The Weekend News	4:00 PBA Games 9:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 10:00 Standing Room Only 10:30 Tour Pilipinas	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guylerd 7:00 Ispup 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 Viva Cine Idols 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	5:00 PBA Games 9:30 Global Family Series 11:00 El Shaddai	6:00 Jimmy Neutron 6:30 Futurama 7:00 Digital tour 7:30 Spy TV 8:00 Yes Dear 8:30 Just Shoot Me 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The West Wing 10:30 Scariest Places on Earth 11:30 News Central	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8.00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	5.30 CBS Evening News 6.00 E! Coming Attractions 6:30 FYE 7:00 E! Original Specials 8.00 Rank 9.00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10:00 Movies on E!
	6.00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:30 Bituin 8.00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinitay 9:00 Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis 11:00 Headlines 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Tour Pilipinas	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 That 70s Show 9:00 On Air 9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:20 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:00 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:40 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:20 Da Boy and Da Girl 10:30 Saksi 11.00 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Digmaan sa Iraq 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Just for Laughs 8:00 Jag 9:00 Harsh Realm 10.00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City	6:30 NBA Jam 7:00 NBA 2000 9:30 Global Family Series 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Buffy 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Q Showcase 9.00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7.00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8.00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 Best of Late Show 11.00 Wild On
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	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:30 Bituin 8.00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinitay 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Gus Abelgas Nag-uulat	6:30 Tour Pilipinas 7:00 Ugnayan Pambansa 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 PBL	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Shutato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Working 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:00 Frontpage 6:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:20 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:00 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:40 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:20 Magpakailanman 10:30 Saksi 11.00 Debate	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Digmaan sa Iraq 6:30 Entertainment Tonite 7:00 Baby Bob 7:30 Sabrina 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Crossing Jordan 10.00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Hidden Hills	6:00 Game Channel 7:00 NBA 2000 9:30 Global Family Series 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Travel	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Barkada Nights 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11.30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6.00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close-Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
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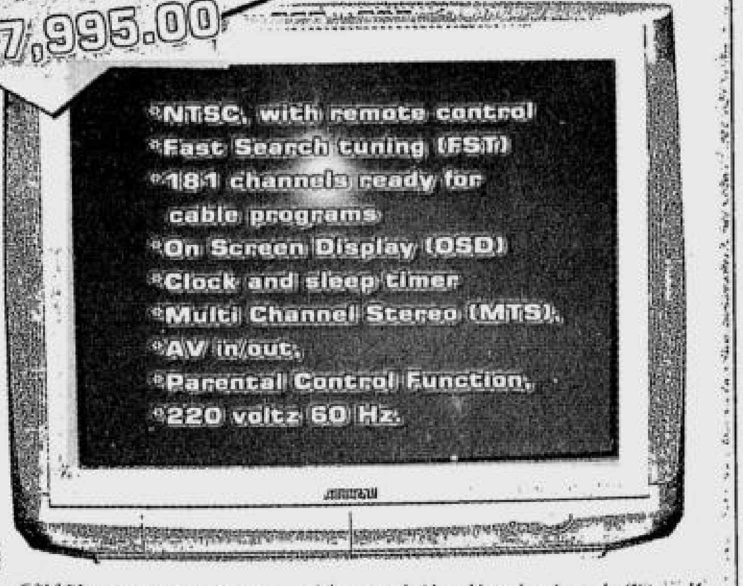

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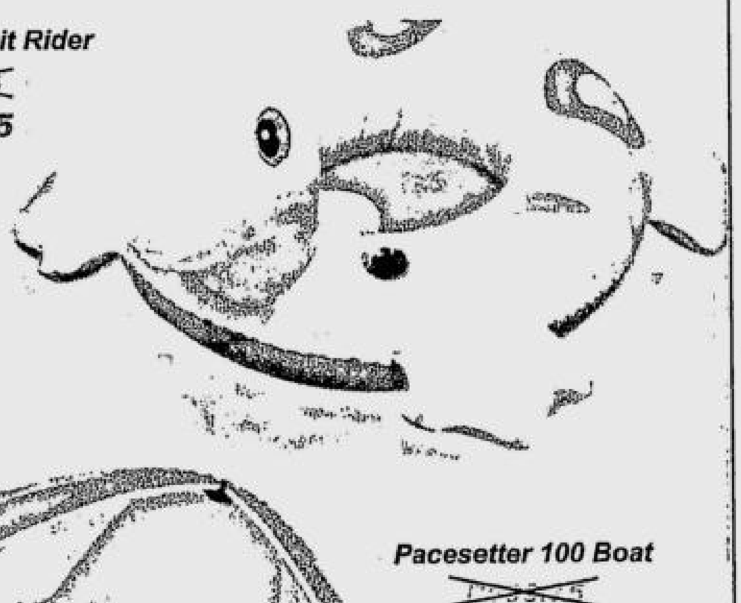

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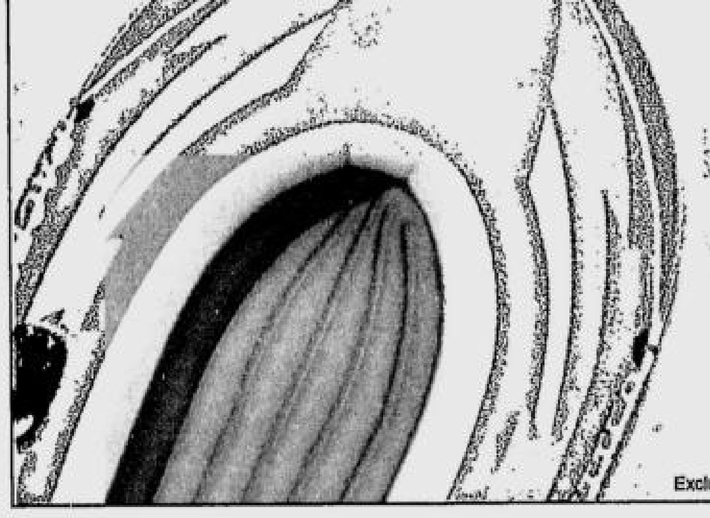

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SWITCHING CHANNELS

ABS-CBN airs Taiwanese soap on May 5

By Edmund L. Sicam

IF Mexican soaps are called telenovelas and ABS-CBN's local versions are *teleseryes*, what do you call a soap made in Taiwan? That's the question we posed to the Star network's Joy Bautista, director for acquisitions, and Trina Sanchez, promotions staff, during the press lunch for "Meteor Garden," which premieres on Monday afternoon (May 5).

THE cast of "Meteor Garden": clockwise from middle, Barbie Hsu Hsi Yuan, Ken Zhu, Vanness Wu, Jerry Yan, and Vic Zhou.

They too were stumped but knowing the industry's predilection for coining words, that term will soon be bandied about. With the proliferation of local and Mexican soaps, ABS-CBN has turned to the Asian region for sourcing program materials. If I'm not mistaken, "Meteor Garden" is the first regional soap to be dubbed in Tagalog and aired by a big network.

"Meteor Garden" is quite popular in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore and features the popular singing group F4, which according to Joy is the Taiwanese version of The Hunks. It's a youth-oriented show about a working-class student, Shan Cai, played by Barbie Hsu Hsi Yuan, who sticks out like a sore thumb in a school for rich kids. She is harassed by her well-to-do classmates, especially F4, made up of the school's most feared students.

Later, however, the group's leader Dao Ming ((Jerry Yan) falls for Shan Cai because he is impressed by her fighting spirit. Our heroine, meantime, finds herself falling for another member of the group, the quiet violin-playing Lei (Vic Zhou), after he rescues her from a group of boys trying to hurt her. Other members of the cast are F4's Ken Zhu as Xi Men and Vanness Wu as Mei Zuo.

Change of image

Tagalized versions of foreign shows are catching on at ABS-CBN. It is already airing the top-rated "Alias," starring "Daredevil's" Jennifer Garner, in Tagalog. Many feature movies are now also being dubbed in Tagalog. Even the TV series "Seventh Heaven" is now aired with Tagalog dialogue on Studio 23.

Joy confirmed that there is an effort to widen the audience for the UHF channel by offering more mass-oriented programs. That started with the simulcasts of Channel 2's daytime shows on 23. That means Studio 23 will eventually have a makeover that will erase its former image as the home of foreign series.

That's probably being realistic because 90 percent of the viewing audience belongs to the CD market and it makes sense for the network to make their productions more accessible to the mass audience.

This goes hand in hand with the recent trend of the industry to shift to narrowcasting. That means those who go for English dialogue shows may have to turn more and more to the cable stations, where that specialization is the order of the day.

'SEXtra, SEXtra'

I am disappointed that GMA's "Extra Extra" is using sexy guests as an excuse to feature its different segments. Hosts Paolo Bediones and Miriam Quiambao have become limited to introducing segments in addition to their intro and extro spiels.

In the past, the two would be on camera most of the time as they went to different places and experienced all kinds of adventures. Have Paolo and Miriam become obsolete on the show?

Is it necessary to show skin to get high ratings? I thought Paolo and Miriam belonged to a new breed of TV hosts who have other things beside their good looks going for them to attract a following...

GMA should change the show's title to "SEXtra. SEXtra" in keeping with its new orientation.

'Identity' . . .

From page F2

Lomis, MGM's distribution president.

Labor of love

"It's a labor of love from the Douglas family, and we felt like it deserved a shot," he said. MGM funded the movie with Disney's Buena Vista Int'l. unit, which is handling foreign distribution.

New Line executives were not available for comment on "The Real Cancun," which comes from the producers of MTV's successful "Real World" franchise. The film jockeyed with Universal Pictures' similarly themed "The Quest" to reach cinemas first before the producers of the latter decided to hold off until later in the summer. Each cost under $8 million. Universal is a unit of Vivendi Universal SA. *Reuters*

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One McKinley Place is a 43-storey, two-tower structure that is merged into one by a sophisticated glass curtain wall. Its exquisite curves never go unnoticed. This premier residential condominium is a creation of no less than the famed Hellmuth Obatta Kassabaum (HOK) of Hong Kong, and of course the country's architectural authority, Roger Villarosa Architects.

As stylish and elegant as its exterior, the interior of One McKinley Place is another delight to lure one's senses. From the floor of the lobby, to the walls of the corridors, to the ceiling of the bedrooms, one will be reminded of the luxurious, first class lifestyle this place offers. Every surface and corner exudes excellence and fine taste.

Take pleasure in world class amenities that are yours to enjoy in the comfort of your own home. Imagine taking a dip in a spacious lagoon-shaped swimming pool or working out in a modern fitness center anytime you want. Elegant function rooms are readily available whenever you wish to entertain guests. Watch your kids go crazy with so much fun as they run and tumble at the playground.

One-Bedroom Unit Master's Bedroom

Experience convenience that goes even beyond expectations with six high-speed elevators, exclusive and fully landscaped driveway and four levels of basement parking. And because your privacy is of prime importance, One McKinley Place occupies an entire block and a podium stands to guard the exclusivity of the towers. There is also a private courtyard entrance solely for residents.

Two-Bedroom Unit Master's Toilet and Bath

While the splendor and beauty of the structure give out a feeling of admiration and inspiration, a rich feast for the senses, its surroundings nourish the soul and well-being. It is in a clean and green environment – a rare privilege in an urban area like Manila. Its splendid view of Manila Golf, Antipolo Hills, Laguna Lake and the Makati skyline can easily leave one breathless.

Not content with being a symbol of beauty, it is also the epitome of accessibility. Standing proud at the west of Forbes Park and southwest edge of the new Bonifacio Global City, One McKinley Place is only a few minutes drive from Manila's central business districts, shopping centers and even the airport. International schools and places for sports and recreation are just a stone's throw away.

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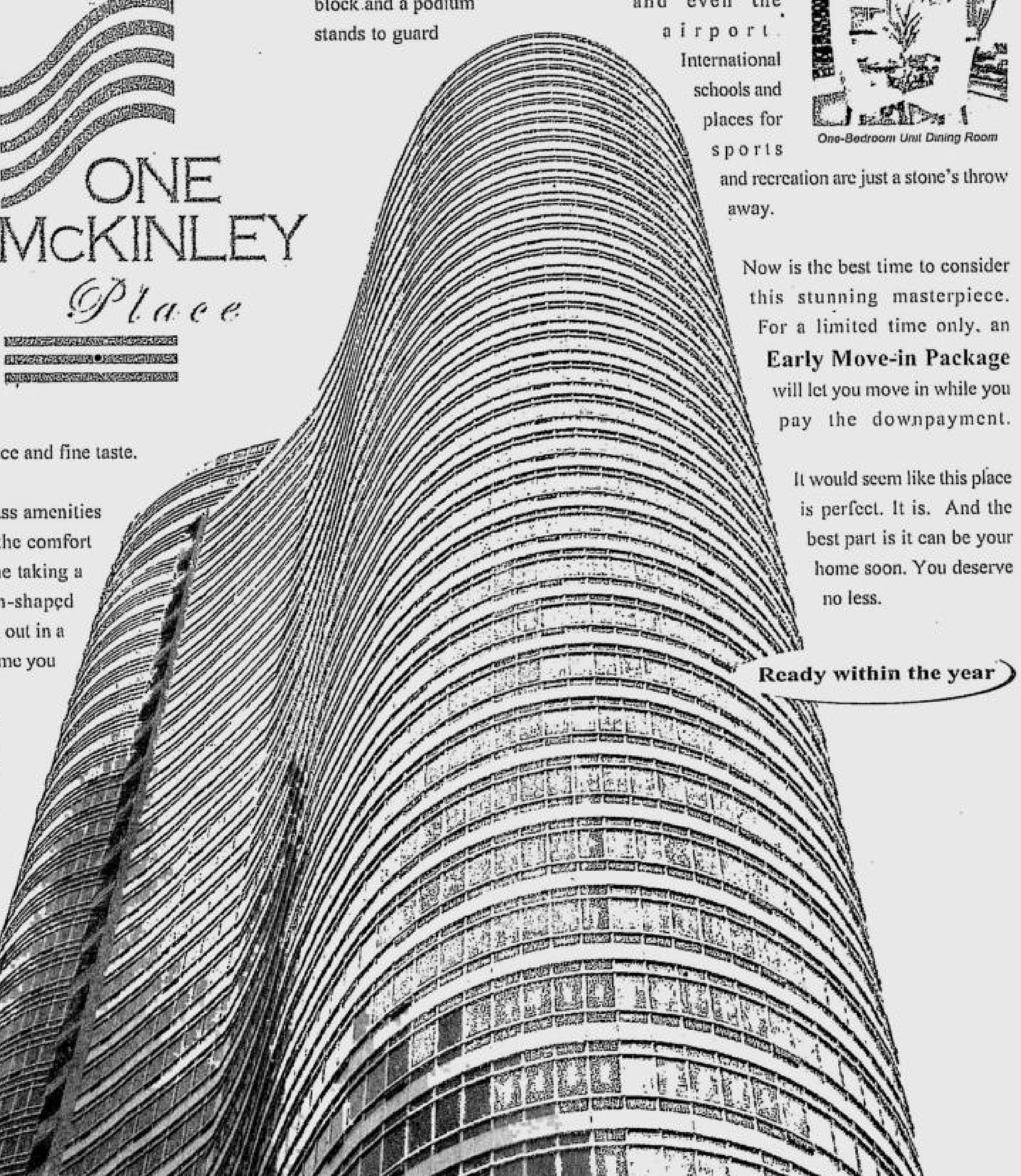

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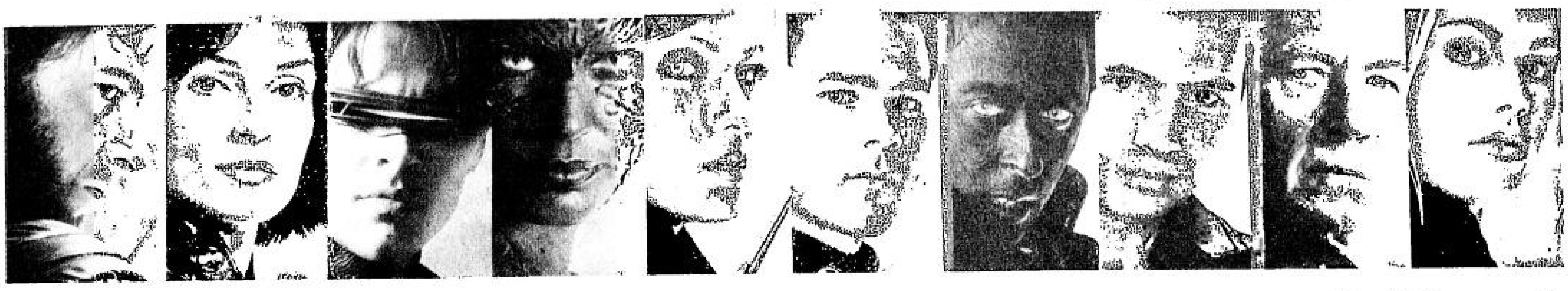


A UNIVERSE OF MUTANTS. From left, Wolverine, Jean Grey, Cyclops, Mystique, Lady Death Strike, Iceman, Nightcrawler, Pyro, Magneto and Rogue.

‘X-Men’ sequel makes biggest international film debut

By Ben Berkowitz

LOS ANGELES—It’s bigger, faster and darker than the original movie, so perhaps it’s not surprising that it is receiving a bigger screen debut than “Spider-Man” or “Harry Potter.” It’s the new “X-Men” film, “X2: X-Men United,” and Twentieth Century Fox hopes the sequel story about a universe of mutants will kick off this week with a box office bang.

93 countries and territories

“X2” opens in 93 countries and territories around the world, marking the broadest opening ever for a movie—wider than “Harry Potter” and “Spider-Man.” The first film, 2000’s “X-Men,” raked in the cash—$294 million worldwide on a reported budget of $75 million, prompting filmmakers to believe the sequel could be even more profitable if they ratcheted up the action.

To some fans of the comic book series, the initial “X-Men” movie lacked the energy and excitement that might be expected of the comic franchise.

Not so “X2.” In early screenings in Los Angeles, fans have been cheering their favorite characters like Wolverine, Magneto, Storm and Mystique.

Claws and body armor

With a budget of more than $100 million and the initial work of explaining the “X-Men” universe of mutants and their enemies out of the way, the sequel was free to show the fire and ice, claws and body armor that are the hallmark of “X2.”

“The marching orders in a sequel are to top the first one—bigger, better, more action,” producer Lauren Donner said in an interview.

“X2” takes up where the first film left off, with Sir Ian McKellen’s metal-controlling villain Magneto locked up in a plastic prison and Patrick Stewart’s Professor Charles Xavier still teaching gifted young mutants.

But a high-profile attack by a mutant with the ability to teleport—Alan Cumming as Nightcrawler—brings renewed attention to the brewing differences and struggles between mutants and humanity.

The attack draws in William Stryker, a military man with a shady past and even more suspect motives, to try and gain control of the “mutant problem.” It also draws back Logan, the clawed mutant known as Wolverine, to Xavier’s school. Played by Australian actor Hugh Jackman, Wolverine takes an aggressive role defending his fellow mutants.

The sequel goes farther than the first in the scope of its story. “Having had success with the first, a certain kind of freedom has been earned,” director Bryan Singer said.

Reuters

ANDREWS. Will voice the role of Cameron Diaz’s mother in “Shrek” sequel.

Stars lend voices to cartoons

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

OUR Q and A for this week:

From Jennifer Lumawig of Pasay City, “I may already be in my 40s but I still enjoy watching cartoons and full-length animated films with my kids. My favorite celebrities are Susan Sarandon, Mel Gibson, Ralph Fiennes and Meg Ryan, whose romantic movies I adore. Have they lent their voices to cartoon characters? Any trivia?”

Yes, your favorite celebrities have all breathed life into animated characters. Mel Gibson was the voice of John Smith in Disney’s “Pocahontas.” He was also acclaimed for his vocal performance in the hilarious “Chicken Run.”

Antagonist

Ralph Fiennes was the voice of Moses’ antagonist, Rameses, in Dreamwork’s “The Prince of Egypt.” Susan Sarandon played Cocco in “Rugrats in Paris;” the Spider in “James and the Giant Peach” and Ivy, the alley dog, in “Cats and Dogs” (2001) to please her kids.

Even Meg Ryan lent her voice to the lead animated character in 1997’s “Anastasia” (with “Spider-Man’s” Kirsten Dunst as the young heroine).

Animated films have been a part of our filmic experience since Walt Disney introduced “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” in Dec. 21, 1937. “Dumbo” (1941) contained Disney’s first surrealistic sequence, “Pink Elephants on Parade.” “The Three Caballeros” (1945) marked the first time Disney introduced cartoon characters to the real world. “Cinderella” was completed in 1950, while “Alice in Wonderland” (1951) took over five years to complete and cost a then-hefty $3 million.

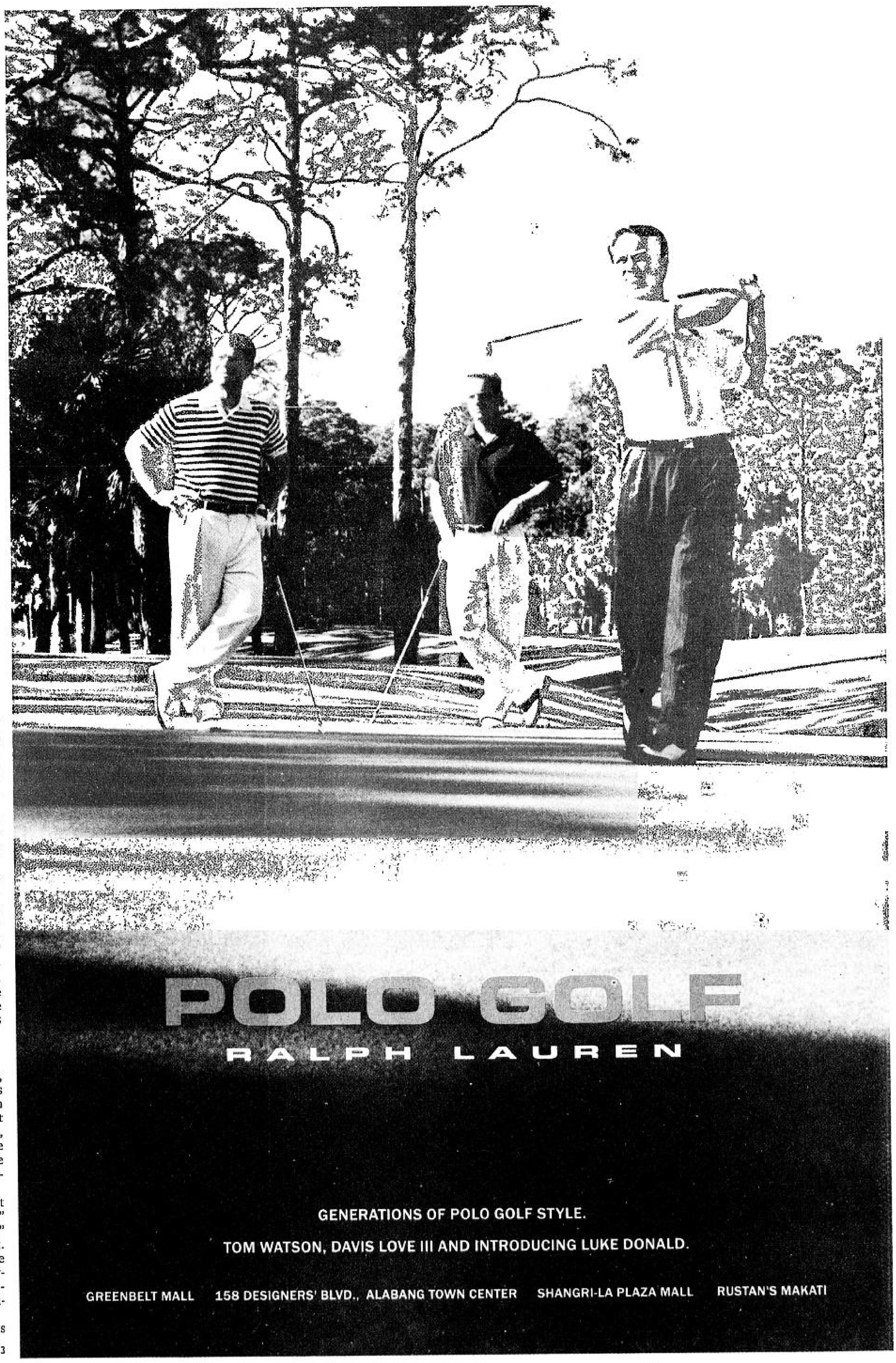
Beauty

Twenty two-year-old model/actress, Margaret Kerry, a 35-25-36” beauty, was the model for “Peter Pan’s” Tinkerbell.” In 1959, “Sleeping Beauty” was Disney’s most lavish and expensive animated feature, whose total cost exceeded $6 million! The original “The Jungle Book” (1967) was the last animated film created under Walt Disney’s guidance.

Before the rebirth of Disney’s big-budget cartoon features (“The Little Mermaid;” “Beauty and the Beast,” etc), “Robin Hood” (1973) was Disney’s biggest animated hit. “The Black Cauldron” (1985) marked the studio’s entry into the field of computer-generated images, while “Hercules” featured its first use of morphing in the animation process.

Walt Disney may have created countless

STARS/ G3



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Addict Mobile and the Slinky Sunrise

Not many parties last well into the sunrise and early morning with the same fervor. Addict Mobile's Slinky at famed Boracay proved to be one for the books. Starting with a dramatic Boracay sunset, house grooves steadily gave way to Slinky's visceral tribal style of soul-touching riffs. "Even the warm-up set was awesome!" cried David, a longtime music afficionado from London who came just for this event.

As BigFish's DJ TC gave way to Slinky resident spinners, the crowd erupted in appreciation and awe for the night that was to come. The audience was a single unified pulse of excitement as Slinky drove the energy level ever higher. It was simple. The beat took over with an otherworldly velocity, and the Boracay stars twinkled in the clear night, beginning their own age-old show, framing an eerie moon.

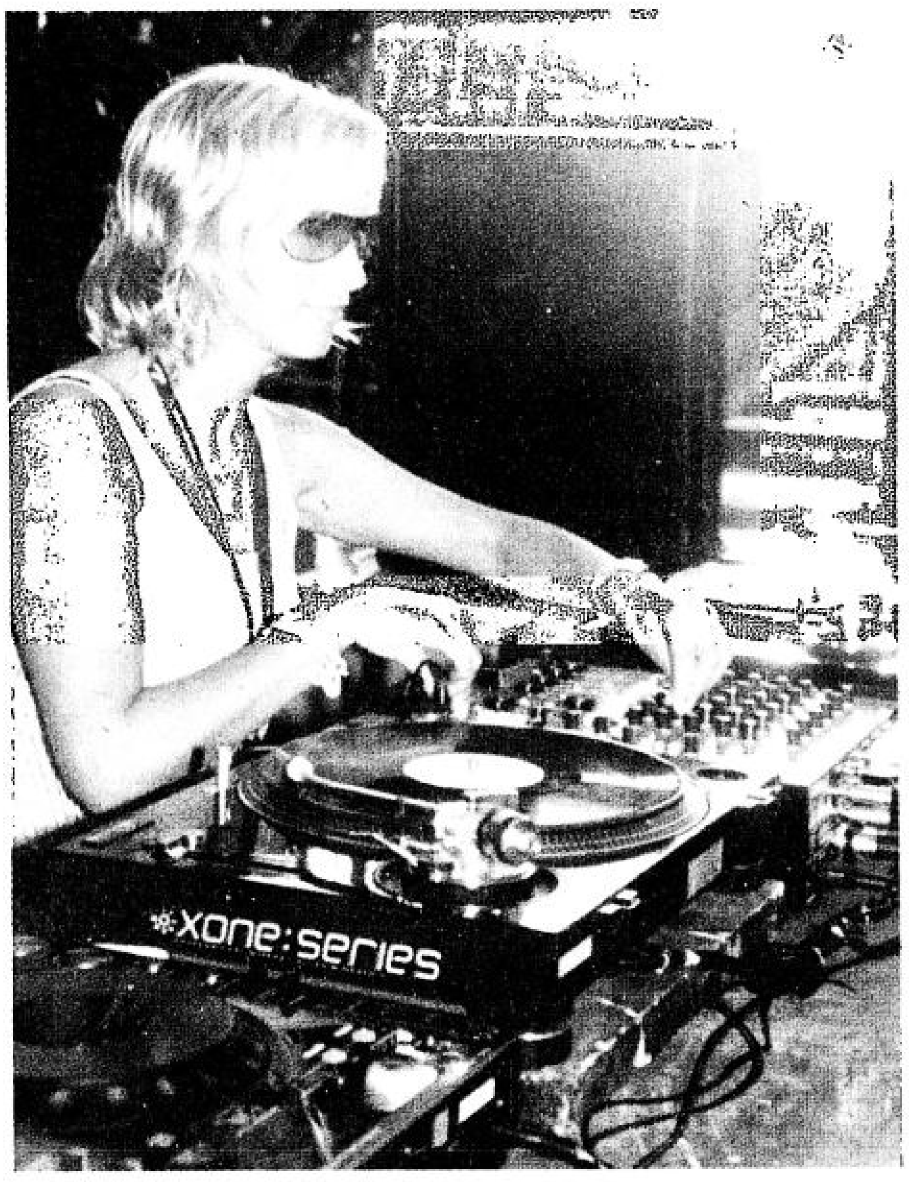
Addict is not about Drugs

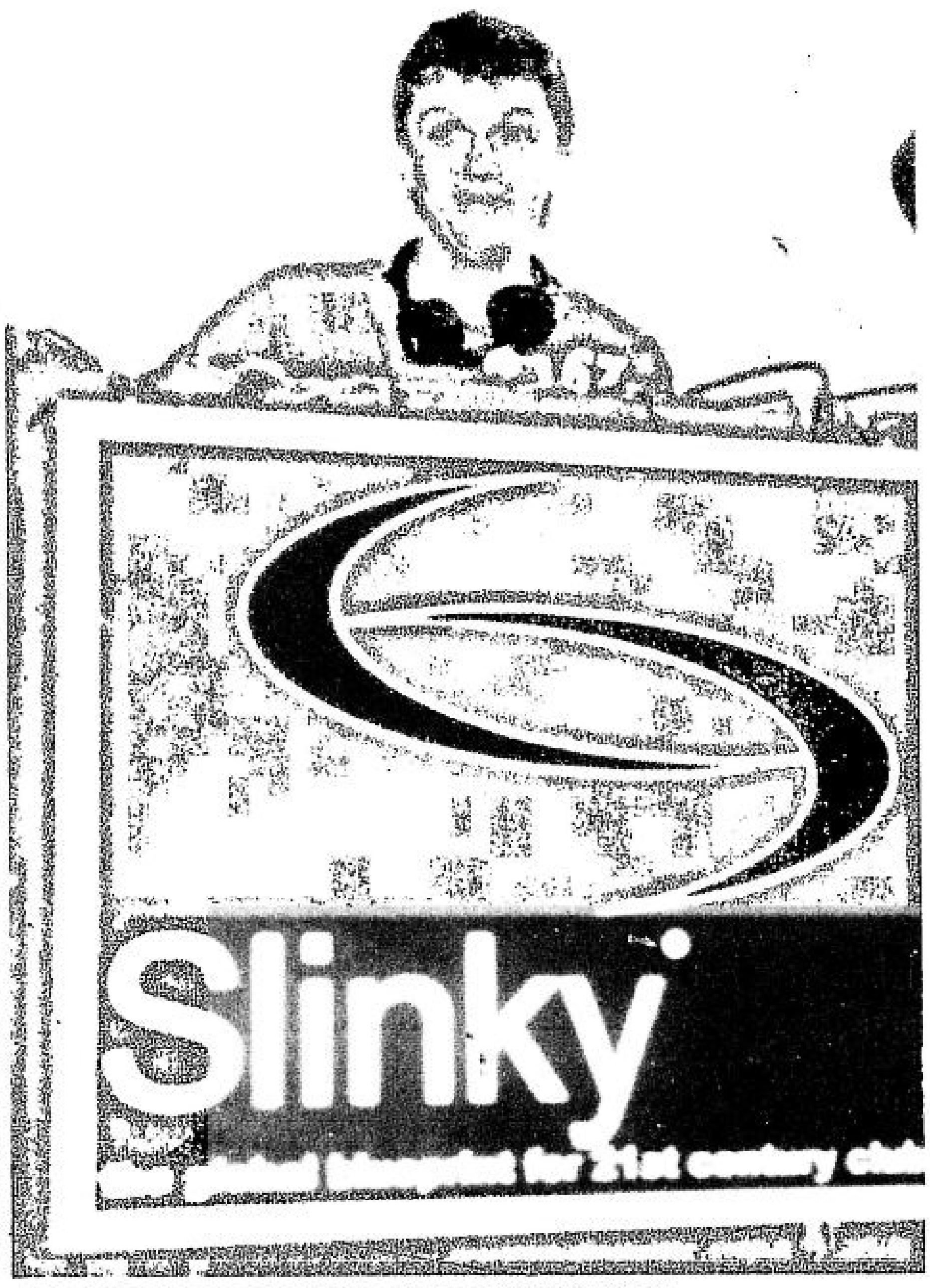
This was made resoundingly clear with an anti-drugs sign posted right on the dance stage. "Most people would get that misconception when you hear the name 'Addict'," said one of the event's organizers. As a matter of fact in a twist of irony, Smart vowed to enforce stricter controls at the Addict Mobile launch with measures as strong as searches at the gates of future events.

And rightly so. Addict Mobile, after all is about being addicted to life, to the passions and interests that make you unique. Through Addict Mobile you get your fix on sports, fashion, news, or shopping, even religion. Addict Mobile content is only sure to grow matching the other positive addictions that make life worth it.

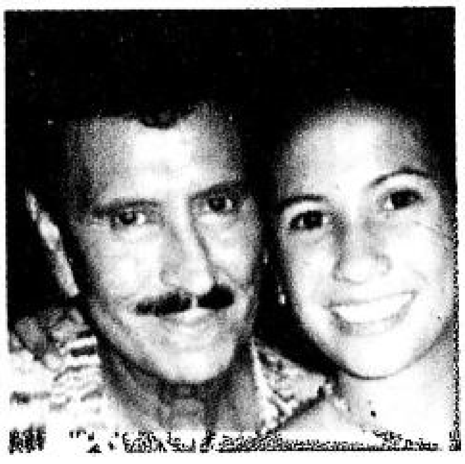
So now see for yourself how the new Addicts get down on the positive vibes and passions that ran riot during the Addict Mobile launch in Boracay…and get hooked yourself!

*To know more about Addict Mobile, call 888-111 from a landline, *888 from a Smart pre-paid line, or clock on to www.addictmobile.com*





Celine Lopez et al



Advt.

Memorable culinary encounter at L'Incontro

MY brother Bong loves sampling new restaurants. His taste varies from Asian to European, American, Middle Eastern—or whatever tastes good. For Italian cuisine, he favors L'Opera (along Paseo de Roxas) and Le Souffle.

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

Food lover

Recently, he invited me and Nina to a fairly new Italian restaurant along Reposo in Makati.

L'Incontro Ristorante Italiano is owned and run by a nice Italian gentleman named Gino Martinel. Gino is a food lover like us so it was no surprise that he and Bong get along so well.

We started with Carpaccio, super-thin slices of tenderloin beef laid over some Arugula salad, shaved parmesan flakes and fresh button mushrooms. *Sarap!*

We then had a plate of Insalata De Mare (seafood salad) with mussels, squid and shrimp. I ordered Tagliatele Prosciuto, a green homemade spinach pasta in a creamy porcini mushroom sauce with a drizzle of truffle oil, wrapped in parma ham. Outstanding!

I also tried the Risotto Fungi Porcini, Italian Alborio rice with mushroom and Italian sausage. Also super.

Bargain

We finally had the T-bone steak. I remember seeing a bargain once in one of my strolls along the Deep Cove in North Vancouver. The sign said, "T-bone $1." I almost jumped until I came closer and read at the bottom, in tiny letters, "with meat $15."

Going back to this L'Incontro T-bone: It was cooked medium rare and the meat had been cut from the bone, sliced into strips and formed just like it originally was. This was one of the most tender T-bones I have tried.

The meal was superb! Afterwards, Gino sent us a drink that was something else—Frangelico, a hazelnut liquor with an exquisite aroma. This, you *must* try.

Happy eating!

L'Incontro is at 207 Nicanor Garcia (formerly Reposo st.) in Makati City. Tel. nos. 899-0638 to 39/ 899-0635.

Stars lend voices . . .

From page G1

characters close to the hearts of kids everywhere, but he had his own favorite—Winnie the Pooh!

Notable celebrities

Other notable celebrities who had cinematic dates with animated characters: Val Kilmer (God/Moses), Sandra Bullock (Miriam) and Michelle Pfeiffer (Tzipporah) in "The Prince of Egypt" (1998); Haley Joel Osment (Mowgli), John Goodman (Baloo) and Phil Collins (Lucky the Vulture) in the currently showing "The Jungle Book 2;" Matthew Broderick and Jonathan Taylor Thomas (as the adult and young Simba, respectively), James Earl Jones (Mufasa) and Jeremy Irons (Scar) in "The Lion King;"

Lea Salonga as the heroines' singing voice in "Mulan" and "Aladdin;" Angela Lansbury (Mrs. Potts) and Robby Benson (Prince/Beast) in "Beauty and the Beast;" Robin Williams (the Blue Genie) in "Aladin;" Eddie Murphy in "Shrek" (as the Donkey) and "Mulan" (as Mushu the Demoted One).

Even Meryl Streep lent her voice to the Blue Fairy in Steven Spielberg's "Artificial Intelligence."

An impressive list of actors helped Woody Allen (Z) propel "Antz" to commercial success—Sylvester Stallone (Weaver), Sharon Stone (Princess Bala), Anne Bancroft (Queen) and Jennifer Lopez (Azteca).

Scheduled to be released next year is the sequel to "Shrek," which will feature John Cleese and Julie Andrews as the parents of Cameron Diaz (Princess Fiona).

Judi Dench, Cuba Gooding Jr. and Sarah Jessica Parker have signed on for Disney's next animated feature, "Home on the Range."

Now, where does that leave Big Bird, the Teletubbies, Casper, Miss Piggy, Richie Rich, Bugs Bunny, Tweety and Sylvester, Woody Woodpecker, Little Lotta, Archie and his gang, Johnny Bravo, Popeye and the Powerpuff Girls? Which celebrities do you think should do *their* voices?

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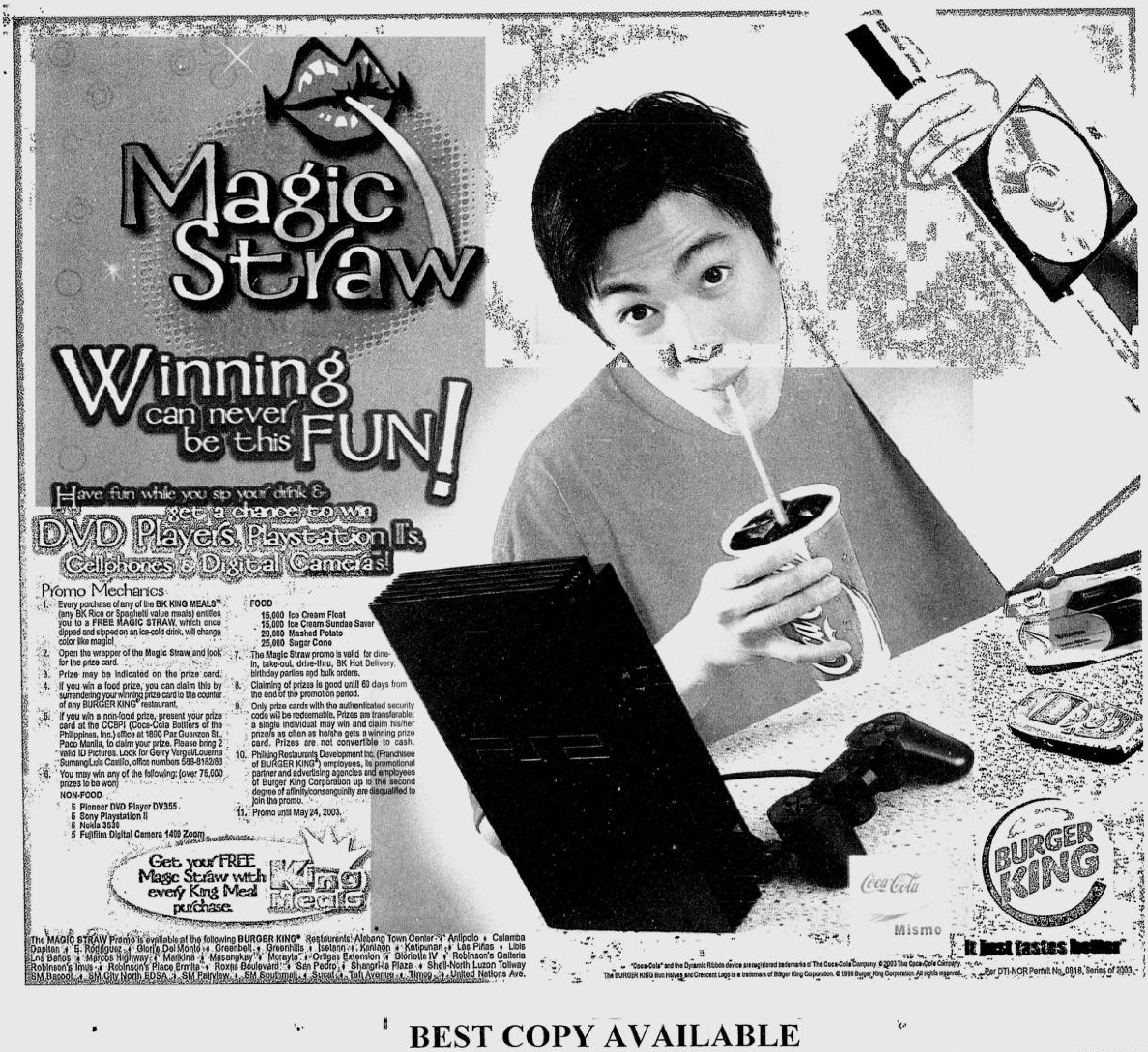
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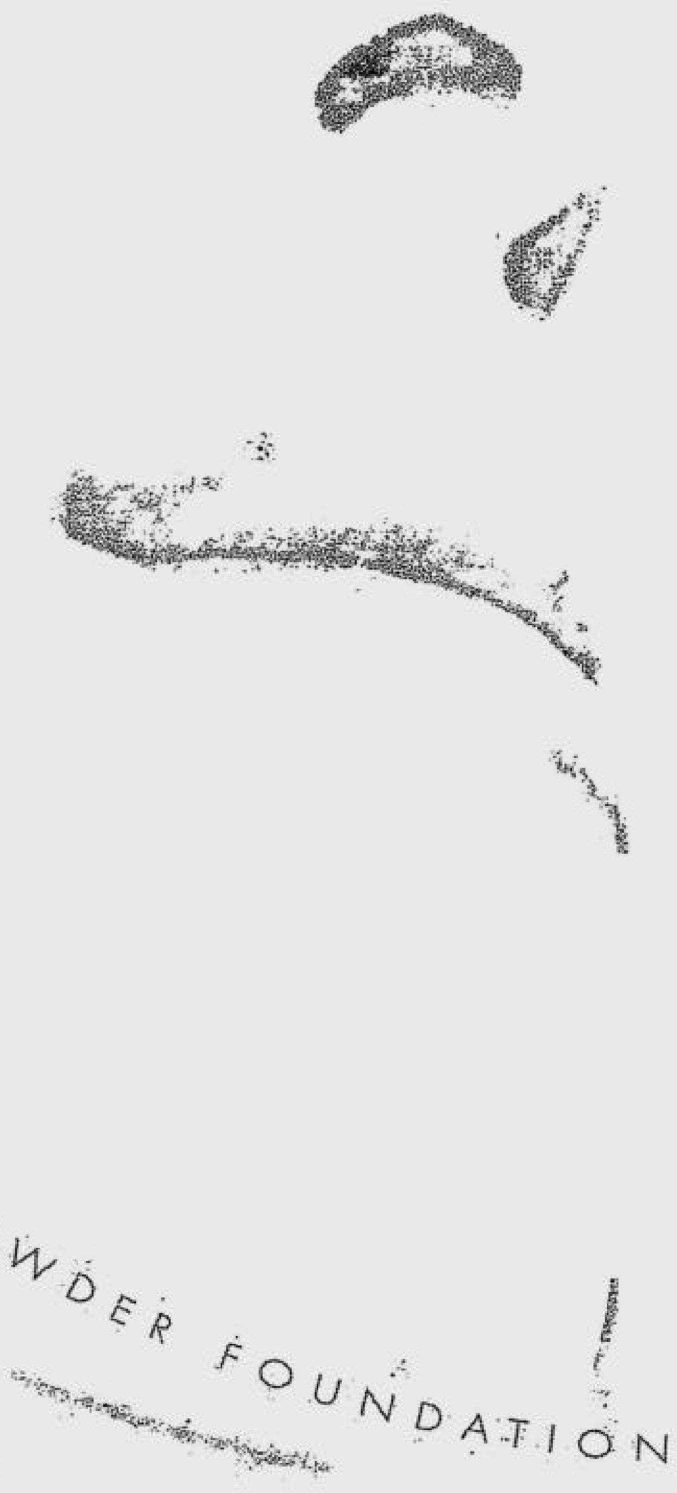
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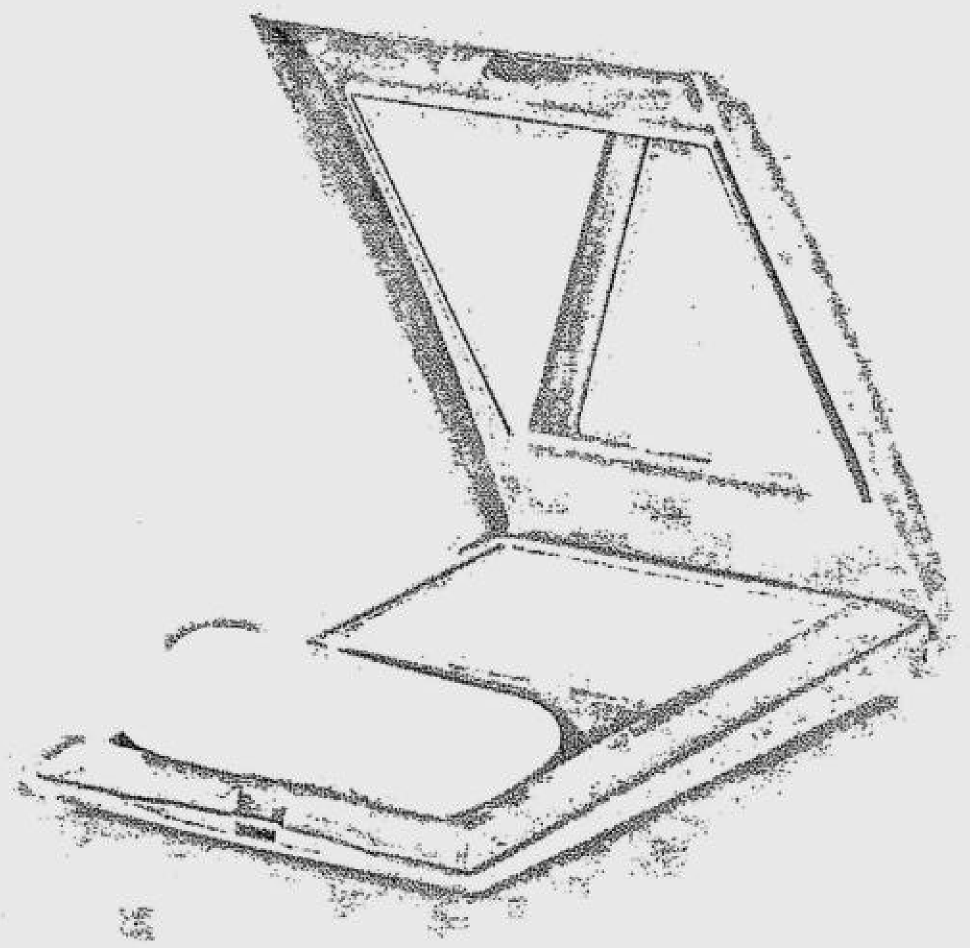

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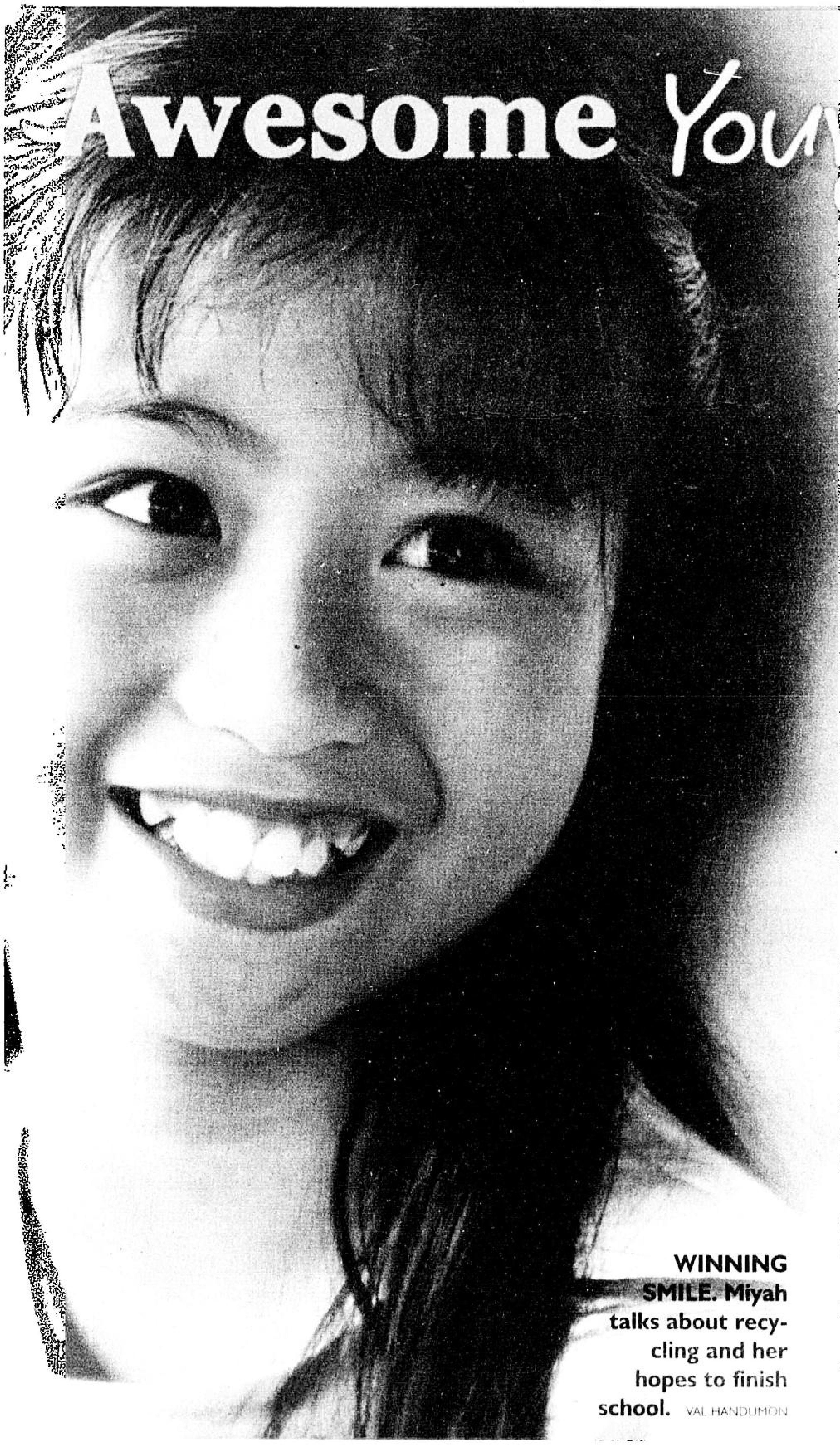
Awesome Young Writers



WINNING SMILE. Miyah talks about recycling and her hopes to finish school. VAL HANDUMON

Presenting this year's winners of the RCBC storywriting contest...

By Eline Santos

FOUR talented young writers use their pens for nature and take home the grand prize in the 9th RCBC Kuwentong Kalikasan Katha ng Kabataan.

Andionne Parlade, Michelle Bullough, John Rijz Gabaon and Miyah Queliste get to have their stories published, win P30,000 in cash and a P25,000 scholarship each.

Nine-year-old Miyah Queliste wrote the story of "Si Pipit at ang Makukulay na Basura." Basing the story on her own experience of recycling at home, Pipit is able to turn the garbage of others into useful and beautiful things.

Miyah says she felt "extremely happy and grateful" for winning and hopes she'll have a chance to finish her studies someday. She is an incoming fifth-grader at Maulawin Elementary School in Pagsanjan, Laguna.

"I hope people will think twice about each piece of garbage they throw," says Miyah. "They might still be able to sell it—or recycle like what we did."

Eagles, Pebbles & Mangroves

Twelve-year-old Andionne or Didi won in the English category, segment B, for her story "Paglaum." Paglaum is an eagle who blames humans for her home's destruction and her grandfather's death. Rescued by a breeding center, she discovers that not all human beings are cruel after all.

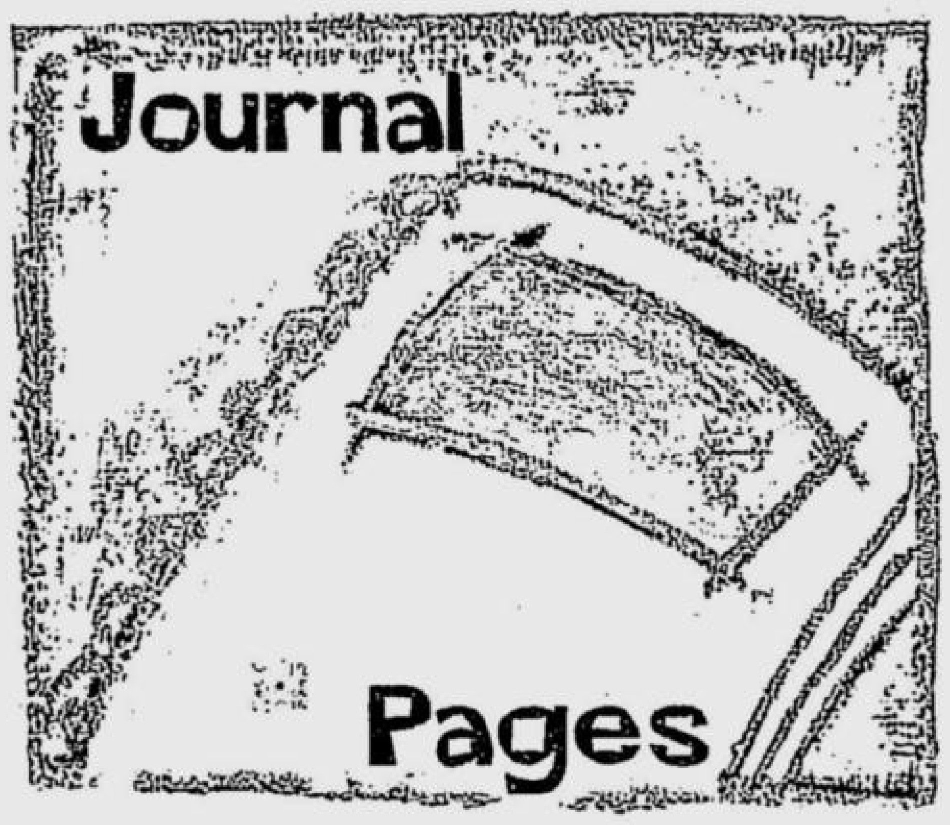
Didi, a student at Miriam College, likes to write because it allows her to express her feelings. She is the editor in chief of her school's newsletter, The Merrypens, and their literary folio, "Go flowing ever on."

Michelle Bullough wrote about "The Magic Pebbles" which enable a girl named Emma to grow a forest in her hometown.

Michelle recently moved to Riyadh and is adjusting to her new life there.

"I hope you like my story and that you will read it again and again. When you do, always think of the trees that are

Awesome/ p. 6



Journal Pages

A Memorable Competition

By Alister Jan Lusuan
Grade 5F, Xavier School
San Juan

HAVE you ever been brave enough to join a contest even if you were so nervous about it? I joined the 4th Batang Pinoy sports competition last December in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. I was eager to go because I wanted to win for my school. I had trained for the swimming competition for so many months. I felt comfortable during the entire trip because my dad was with me.

We toured so many interesting places before the competition. There was the crocodile farm where we saw lots of crocodiles with large, sharp teeth. We also visited a large prison. I was quite impressed. Prisoners in Manila do nothing, but prisoners in Palawan work hard in the field to earn some money for their families. We went into their store and we were amazed to see the beautiful things they were selling. These were crafts made with their own hands.

The next day was the start of the competition. I felt butterflies in my stomach! I was also excited and challenged because there were many rivals who were strong and aggressive. I concentrated on winning, hoping to win the gold and perhaps break a record.

When my name was called, I began to focus. I breathed deeply. The official blew his whistle and I plunged into the water. I swam very fast and at the same time not forgetting my strokes. I touched the finish line and came out second. When I gathered my medals, I got two silvers for the backstroke and one bronze for the freestyle. Well, I felt sad because I did not win any gold. But Dad patted me on the back and comforted me. He told me it was okay and there will be another time. This made me happy. Now I look forward to the next Batang Pinoy competition.

Sound Familiar?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

Onward to High School!

AFTER six long years of hard work and toil, I finally graduated. Being a Grade 6-A student meant a lot to me. I got good grades, behaved well and was a role model to other students.

So many things will I miss. I would miss my classmates' teasings, the mean-at-first-but-mellows-in-time math teachers, and the science lessons. I would miss loyal friends, understanding advisers, and places that are filled with mementos. But as they say, life must go on, even if it means bidding the past goodbye.

I know that in high school, lessons would be more difficult, teachers stricter and peers more aggresive. Would I be able to cope? I know in time, with God's help and my parents' guidance, I would make it.

To my parents, friends and teachers, thank you so much for everything. I would be nothing today without your help. To all the people who have a place in my elementary years, thanks for all the memories. And finally, I thank the Lord for being with me in every step of the way.—**FRANZ JONATHAN G. DELA FUENTE**, 12, Cainta, Rizal

Junior Inquirer

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World Scope

Beith,
United Kingdom

Don't be afraid...

A HEDGEHOG, one of the first to be rescued from a controversial culling programme on North Uist is weighed for record keeping. A culling is when a selected number of animals are killed to protect the population of another species. More than 30 hedgehogs were being shipped off the island and released into the wild or taken to the remote Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue Centre at Beith, Ayrshire. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is currently carrying out a cull in the Western Isles to wipe out about 5,000 hedgehogs to protect rare breeder wader birds. *AFP*

OUT THERE

By Christine A. Palta

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4794, and our e-mail address is pr_junior_inquirer@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

LOOKING for more fun things to do this summer? Check out the following activities and take your pick!

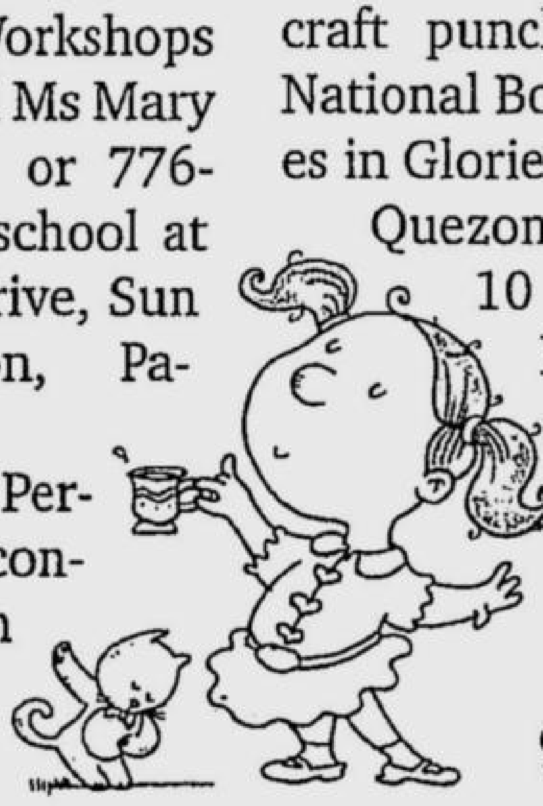
Workshops Galore!

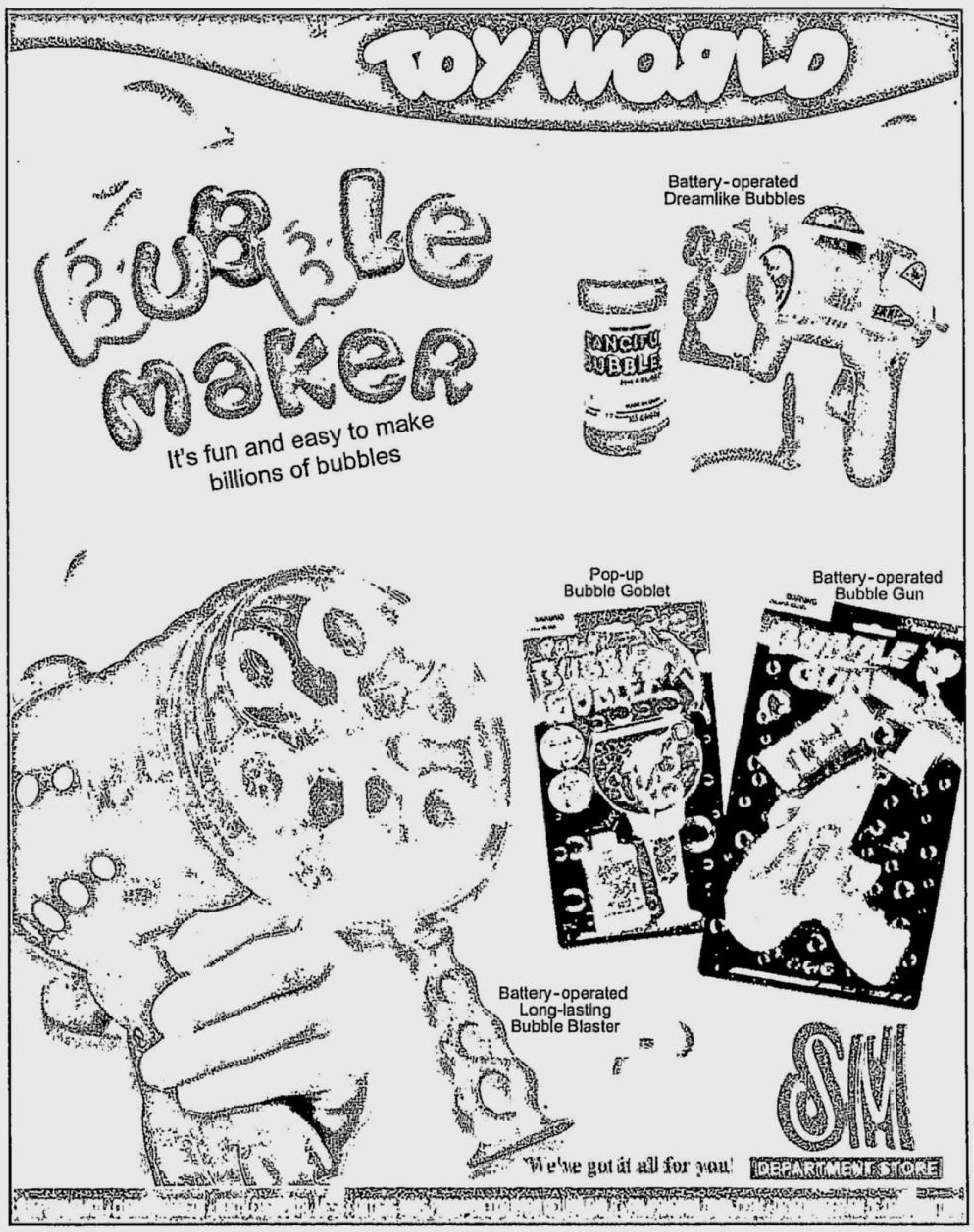
GOOD MANNERS, ETC. Sacred Heart School Sun Valley holds these workshops: Manners, Manners Everywhere, Tiny Kitchen, Taekwondo, and Art. Workshops start on May 5. Call Ms Mary Rose at 823-1348 or 776-0312, or visit the school at 3690 Sun Valley Drive, Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque City.

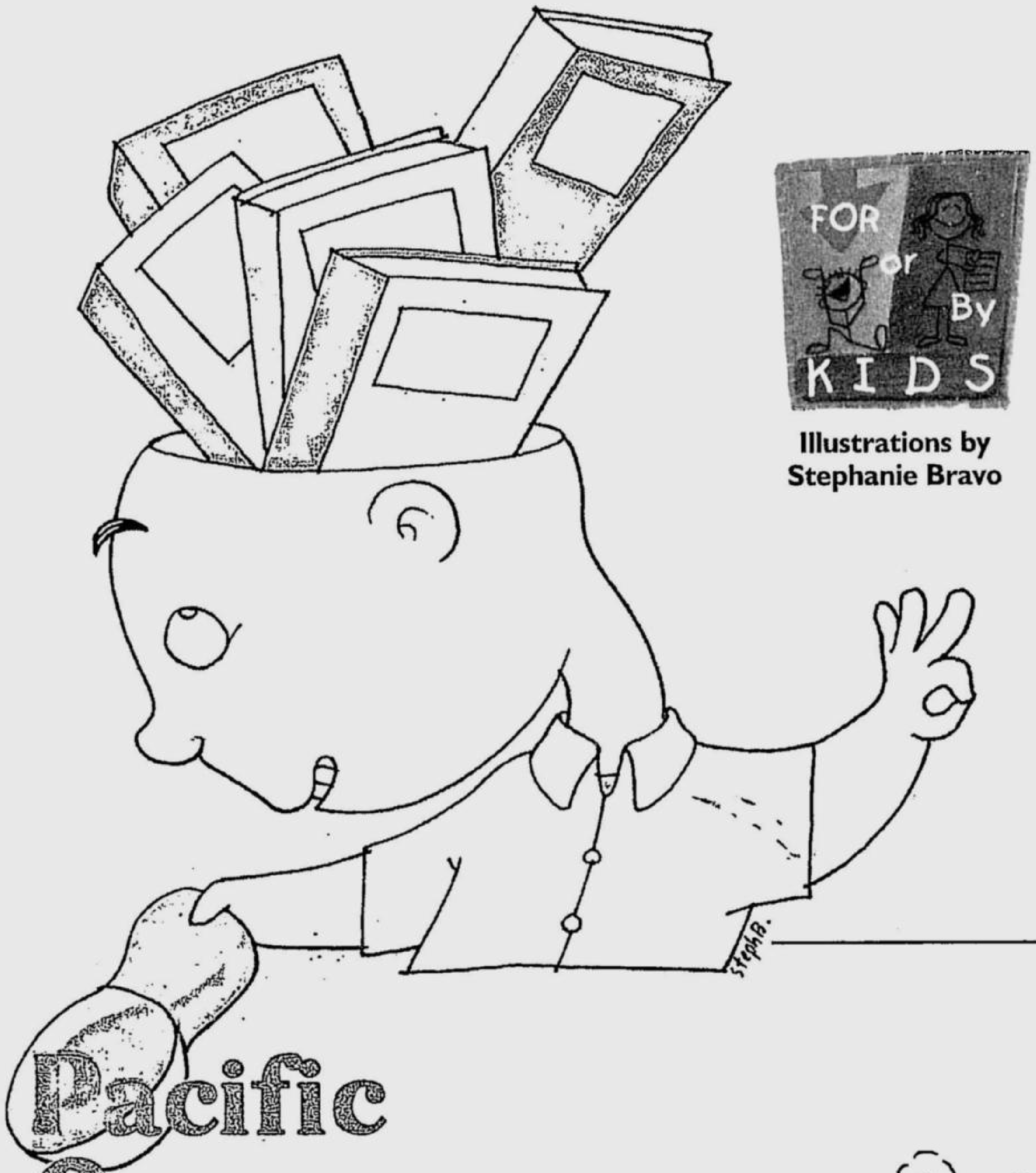
ACTING. The MGP Performers' Studio conducts workshops in acting for theater, TV, film and commercials. Workshop venue is at Lagro Subdivision, Quezon City. Please call (02) 930-1890, (02) 417-9924, or 0917-538-9770.

KITCHEN CAMP. The San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center invites kids ages 8-13 to join its Kids Kitchen Camp on May 6, 7 and 8 from 1-4 p.m. at the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center in Legaspi corner Eagle Streets, Barrio Ugong, Pasig City. Call 671-9876 locals 402, 405 and 259 to register.

ONE COOL PUNCHER! Make great-looking cards, scrapbooks, and other designs using the cool craft puncher! Join CarlaCraft's craft punch workshops in National Book Store branches in Glorietta on May 3 and Quezon Avenue on May 10 from 2-4 p.m. For details, inquire at any National Book Store branch or contact CarlaCraft at 242-9294.




TOY WORLD
Bubble maker
It's fun and easy to make billions of bubbles
Battery-operated Dreamlike Bubbles
FANCIFUL BUBBLE
Pop-up Bubble Goblet
Battery-operated Bubble Gun
Battery-operated Long-lasting Bubble Blaster
SM
We've got it all for you!
DEPARTMENT STORE



FOR or By KIDS

Illustrations by
Stephanie Bravo

School

By Marcel Puyat

It's like watching a tennis game
The teacher walking left and right.
I sway my head
And want to learn more
Until I am one with the universe.

Marcel, 10, is in Grade 3.

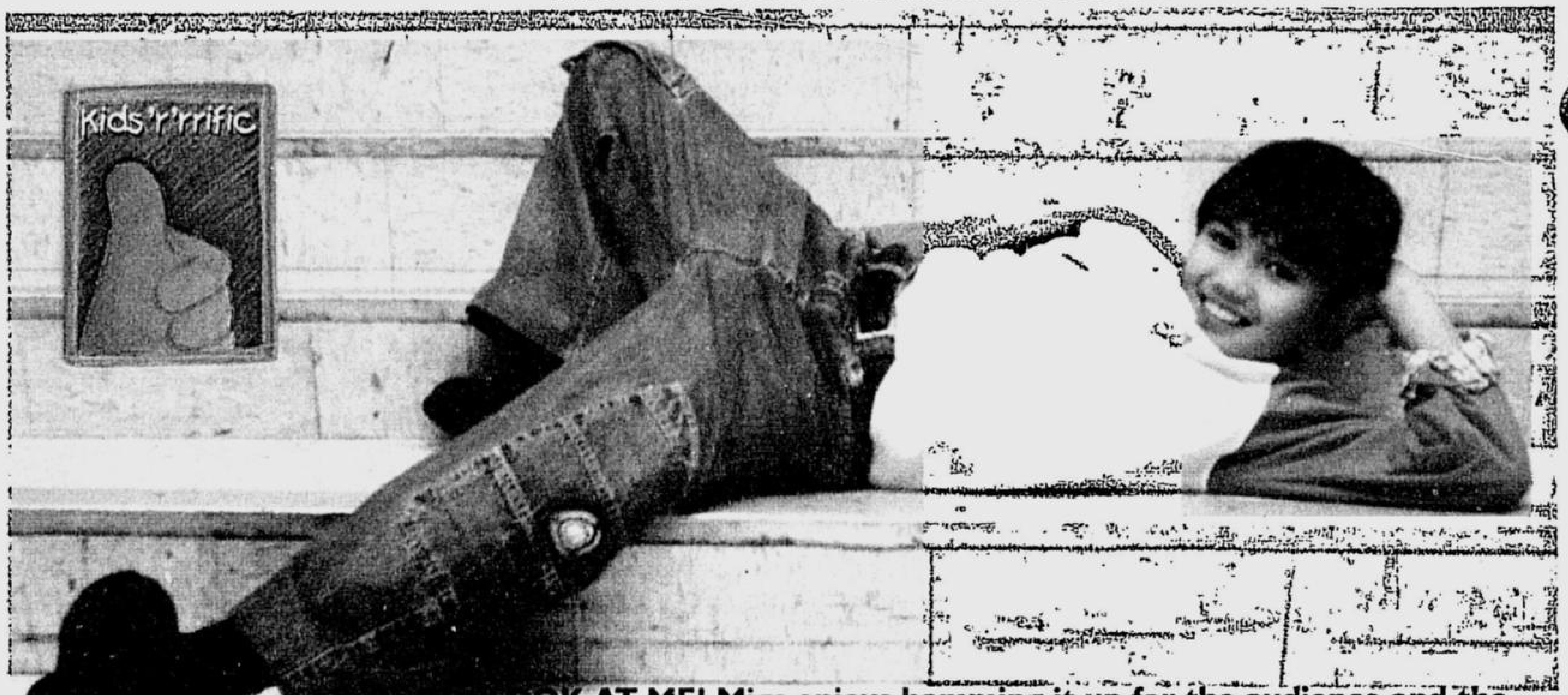
Pacific Ocean

By Mikkel Puyat

Predators, always hunting their prey.
Anglerfishes, always lighting the way
Crabs, always running away
In the reefs, is where the fishes stay
Fishes always swimming away.
In the ocean, what is the commotion? Why is everyone going away?
Can't they stop? Please make them stop by going away!

On the floor, there is still motion, on the ocean floor
Colorful fishes, causing motion on the ocean floor
Even the plants, swaying and moving on the ocean floor.
All are busy, causing commotion.
No one is lazy, here in the Pacific Ocean.

Mikkel, 12, is a Grade 6 student.
***Steph** is JI's resident artist.*



LOOK AT ME! Migs enjoys hamming it up for the audience and the camera.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

MIGS: PET LOVER, STAGE ACTOR

Welcome to the world of an 8-year-old super active kid!

By Eline Santos

EIGHT-year-old Miguel Aguila loves the theater. "It's fun!" he exclaims, even when he was in a sad play like "Spoliarium."

"Spoliarium" is an opera on the life of Juan Luna. It ran in the Cultural Center of the Philippines early February. Migs played the role of Luling. "He's the son of Juan Luna," Migs explains. "He's a good boy."

Juan Luna was indeed a good boy, just like Migs who helps care for their 10 dogs, four cats and two parrots at home. "I feed them, I walk them, I make them take a bath."

"I brush their teeth," he demonstrates with his hand while making brushing noises. "My favorite dog was the one who died, *si* Zippy."

"Zeus is brave," Migs describes his other pets. "Then there's Bugsy, Bulgogi, Zola..."

The hyper second-grader from La Salle Greenhills has won elocution contests in school and been on TV commercials and modeling stints. He also enjoys music and bursts into song every now and then. "Mama, Papa, ...where are you?" he sings his favorite part of "Spoliarium."

Migs takes turns playing Luling with fellow actor and playmate, 6-year-old Franz Pineda. The two boys share a liking for Beyblades, Crushgear and Zoids. They play-fight and tickle each other between scenes.

"I'm the wolf, he's the tiger," says Migs.

"No, I'm not the tiger. I'm the Jaguar!" Franz corrects him.

"Then I'm going to be the tiger!" Migs laughs.

While Franz wants to be a computer engineer, Migs wants to be a superhero when he grows up. Maybe Superman, Spiderman, or Megaman.

"I also like the one who runs fast, the one in the red shirt (Flash). And I like the one with the ring (Green Lantern)." Almost everyone on the Justice League except Wonder Woman.

Being in a production takes a lot of practice and time, but for Migs, it's just being hard at play.

R U RRIFIC

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kids 'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate: ____________________

Age: ____________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at ____________________

and studies at ____________________

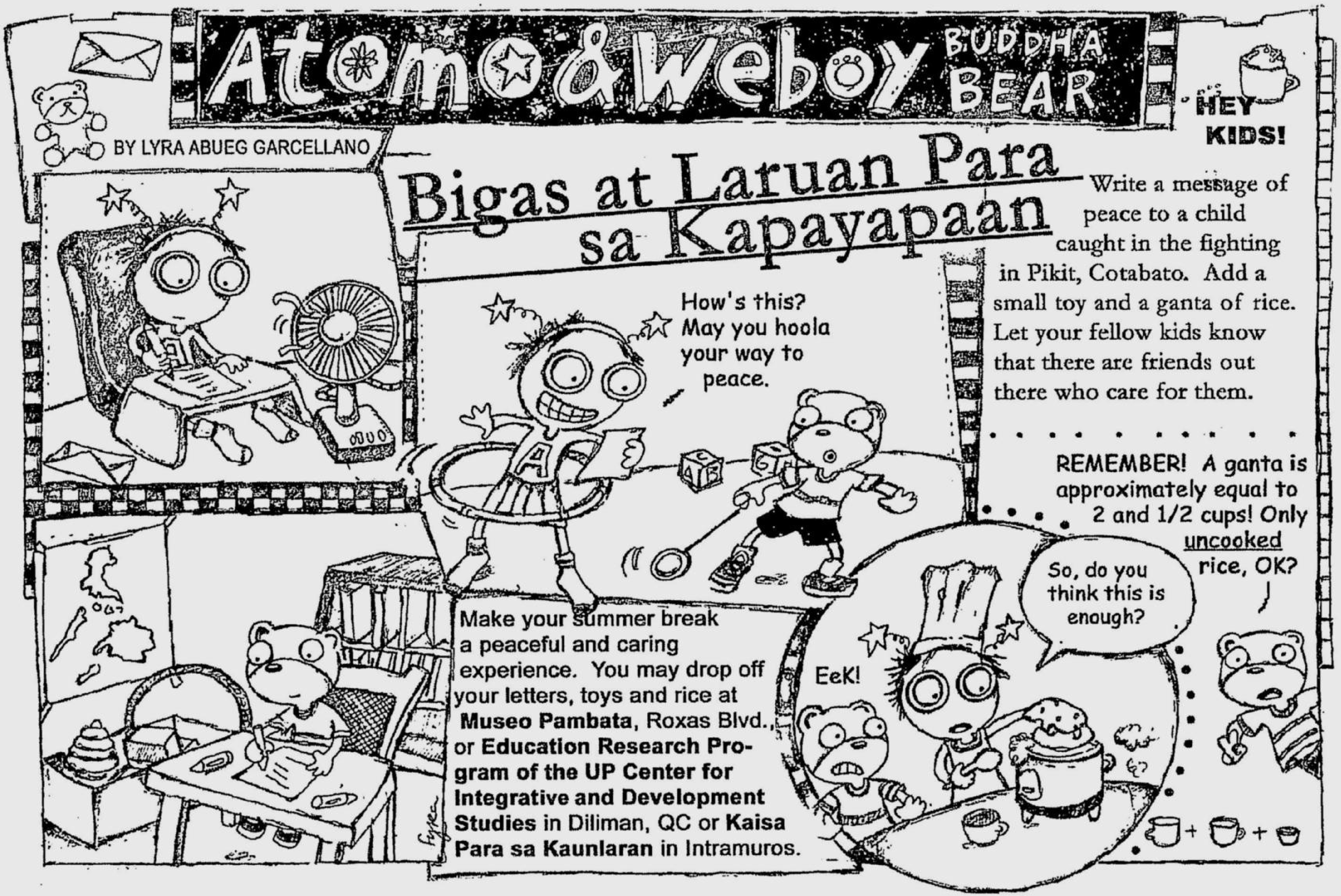
Her/his contact number is: ____________________

Sender's Name: ____________________

Sender's Age & School: ____________________

Sender's Address: ____________________

Sender's Contact No. ____________________


Atomo&weboy
BUDDHA BEAR
How's this? May you hoola your way to peace.
So, do you think this is enough?
EeK!

BY LYRA ABUEG GARCELLANO

Bigas at Laruan Para sa Kapayapaan

HEY KIDS!

Write a message of peace to a child caught in the fighting in Pikit, Cotabato. Add a small toy and a ganta of rice. Let your fellow kids know that there are friends out there who care for them.

REMEMBER! A ganta is approximately equal to 2 and 1/2 cups! Only uncooked rice, OK?

Make your summer break a peaceful and caring experience. You may drop off your letters, toys and rice at **Museo Pambata**, Roxas Blvd., or **Education Research Program of the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies** in Diliman, QC or **Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran** in Intramuros.

Awesome Young Writers

(from page 1)

being cut down and that nature is very important," Michelle says to JI readers in an e-mail.

JAMAE BUYAYO

DIDI loves Newberry Medal-winning books and recommends Lemony Snicket's "A Series of Unfortunate Events."

John Rijz Gabaon, who turned 13 on the awarding day ceremony last April 14, wrote "Joan Bakawan." It's the story of a baby mangrove tree who keeps asking a lot of questions.

"In our place, the mangroves are disappearing which is why I thought I should write a story about them," says the first honor student from Paco Elementary School, Obando, Bulacan.

JOHN writes short descriptions of nature in his free time.

VAL HANDUMON

SHIRLEY'S PETS

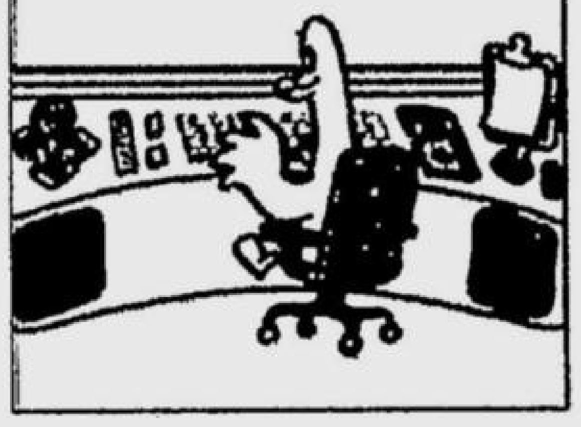
by robert magnuson

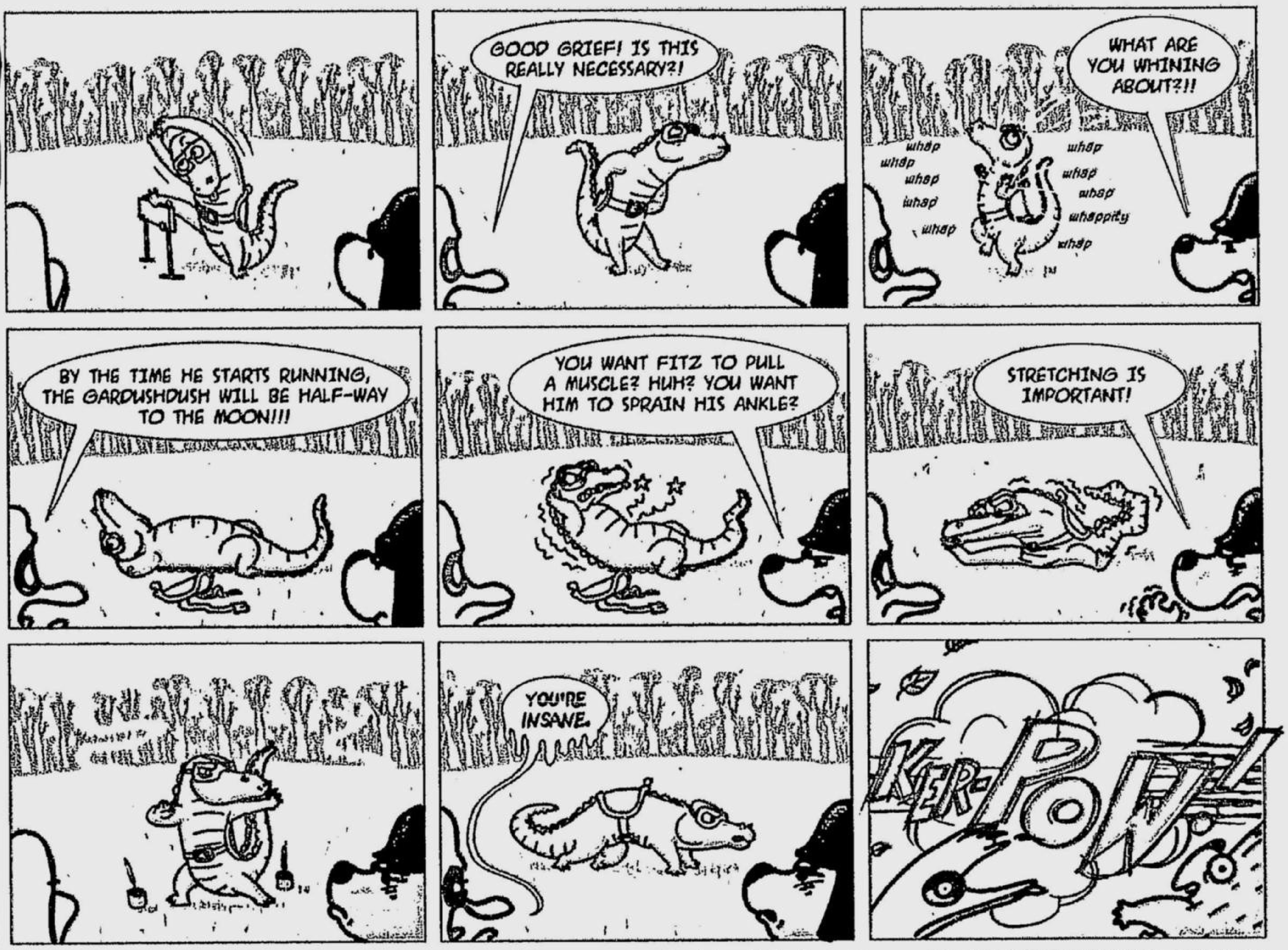
Previously In Shirley's Pets Mystery Duck's Entry:

Little John's Junior Membership ring has been stolen by his vain sister, Sinatra Therese.

Sinatra has been abducted by a strange monster which Pancho and his pals call a "Gardushdush".

Pancho has volunteered one of his team mates to pursue the monster's tracks as we plan our next move.




GOOD GRIEF! IS THIS REALLY NECESSARY?!
WHAT ARE YOU WHINING ABOUT?!!
whap whap whap whap whap whap whap whap whappity whap
BY THE TIME HE STARTS RUNNING, THE GARDUSHDUSH WILL BE HALF-WAY TO THE MOON!!!
YOU WANT FITZ TO PULL A MUSCLE? HUH? YOU WANT HIM TO SPRAIN HIS ANKLE?
STRETCHING IS IMPORTANT!
YOU'RE INSANE.
KER-POW!

visit us: robertmagnuson.port5.com or email: seintmartin@yahoo.com

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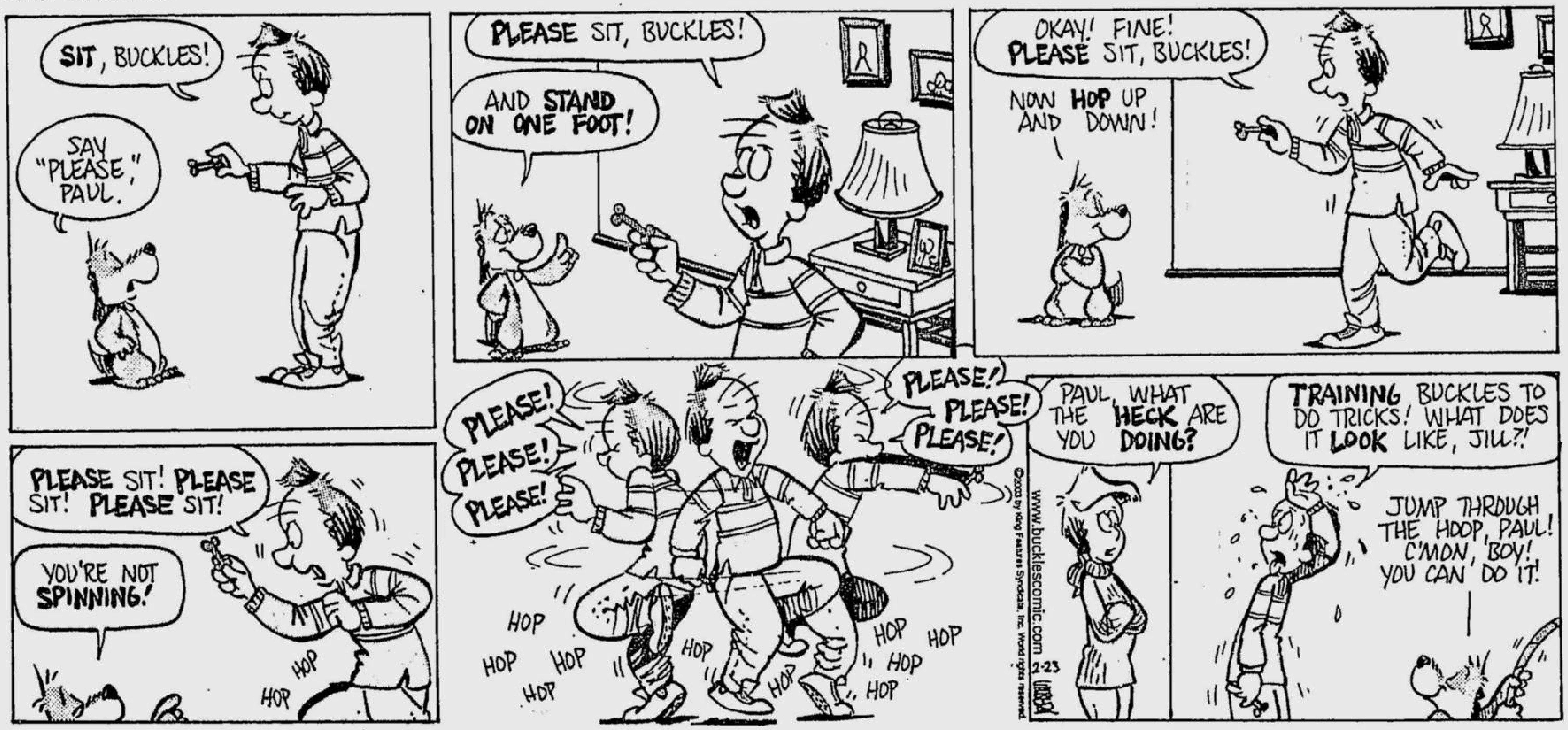
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


SIT, BUCKLES!
SAY "PLEASE," PAUL.
PLEASE SIT, BUCKLES!
AND STAND ON ONE FOOT!
OKAY! FINE! PLEASE SIT, BUCKLES!
NOW HOP UP AND DOWN!
PLEASE SIT! PLEASE SIT! PLEASE SIT!
YOU'RE NOT SPINNING!
HOP HOP
PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!
PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!
HOP HOP HOP HOP HOP HOP HOP HOP HOP HOP
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www.bucklescomic.com
2-23
PAUL, WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?
TRAINING BUCKLES TO DO TRICKS! WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE, JILL?!
JUMP THROUGH THE HOOP, PAUL! C'MON, BOY! YOU CAN DO IT!

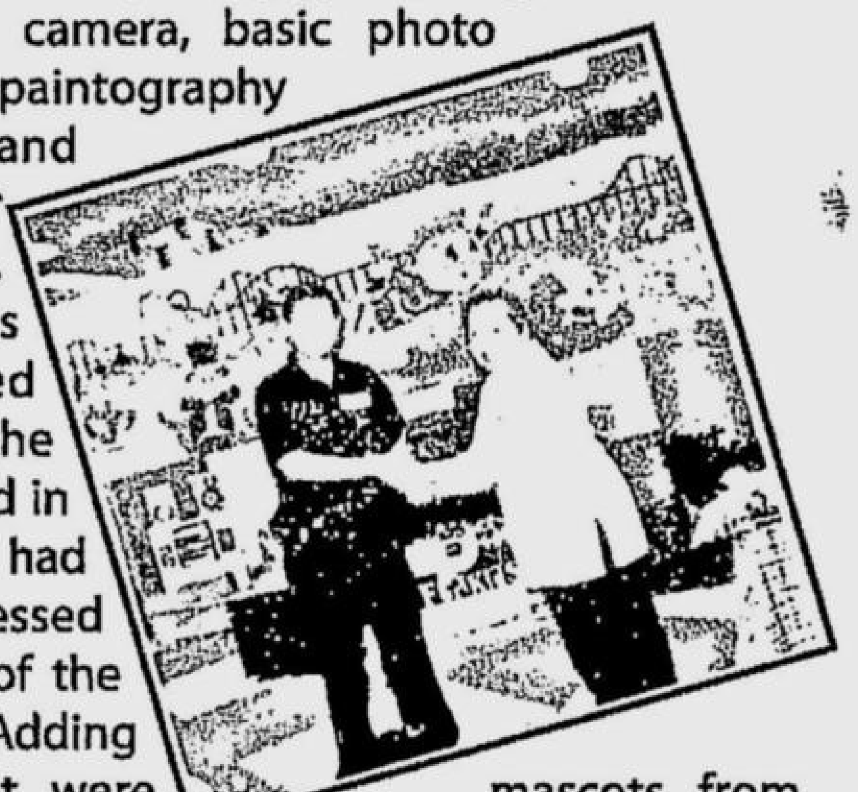
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

A Picturesque Summer for Kids

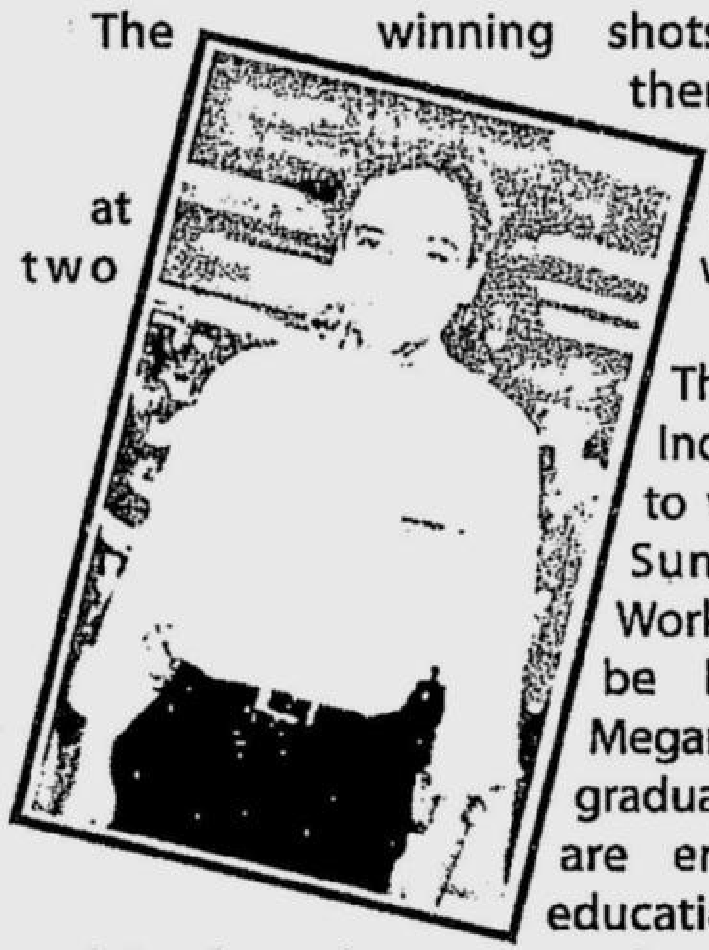
Parents and Kids! Grab those cameras! This season will be enlivened by yet another colorful summer with Canon Camera and Junior Inquirer's Summer Photography Workshop for Kids.

Now on it's second year, kids 7-12 years old will be introduced to the world of captured reality: Photography.

Last year, four weekly sessions (with culminating activity) gave some 65 kids a doze of fun and a sprinkle of magic as Ibarra Deri, a professional photographer, taught them the basic parts of the camera, basic photo techniques, even paintography wherein paints and colors are used for more artistic pictures. Kids as young as seven exclaimed excitement over the things they've learned in the workshop. "We all had a fun time!", expressed Dean Guerrero one of the young participants. Adding smiles to the event were mascots from Henlin & Chocolait, who gave kids more reason to take laughter-filled pictures.



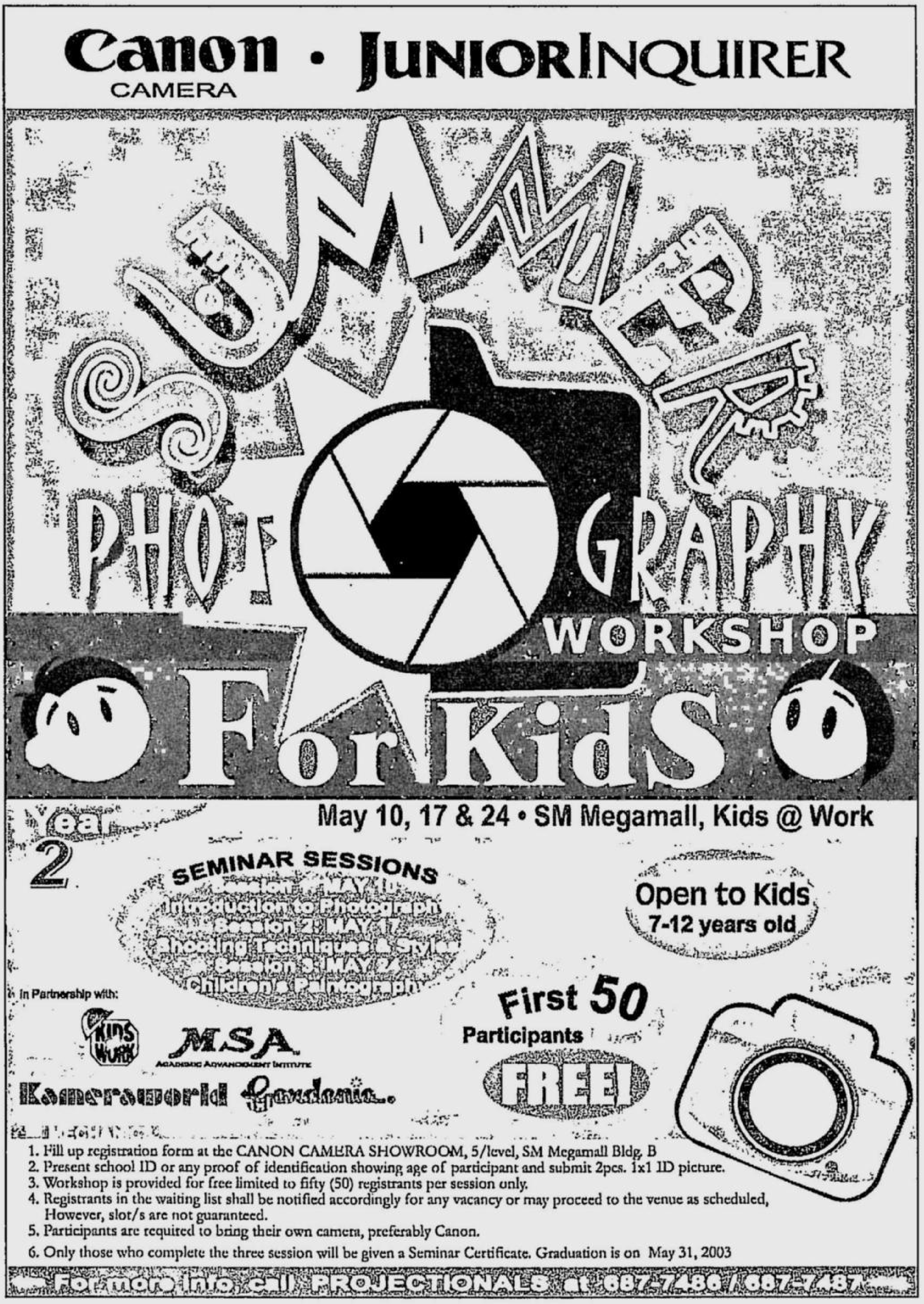
The winning shots taken by the kids themselves during the workshop were exhibited at Kids at Work Megamall for two weeks.



This summer, Canon & Junior Inquirer are looking forward to welcome you in their 2nd Summer Photography Workshop for Kids, which will be held at Kids at Work Megamall on May 10, 17, 24, with graduation day on May 31. Kids are encouraged to join this educational - even magical - activity brought to you by Canon Camera, under the auspices of its Philippine Distributor Super East Asia, Junior Inquirer, Kids At Work, MSA Educational Advancement Institute and Kameraworld, Gardenia Bread & Anchor Kids.

This workshop is for free! Contact Ms. Kyla of Projectionals at 687-7486/87 to pre-register and know more about the workshop or just visit The Canon Camera Showroom or Kids at Work in SM Megamall to register.

Professional Photographer Ibarra Deri gives lecture on basic photography to very curious and attentive participants at Canon -JI's Summer Photography Workshop for Kids (2002). Around 65 kids learned and explored basic camera and shooting techniques, including Paintography.



Canon CAMERA • JUNIORINQUIRER

SUMMER PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP For KidS

Year 2

May 10, 17 & 24 • SM Megamall, Kids @ Work

SEMINAR SESSIONS
[illegible] MAY 10
Introduction to Photograph[illegible]
Session 2: MAY 17
Shooting Techniques & Style[illegible]
Session 3: MAY 24
Children's Paintograph[illegible]

Open to Kids
7-12 years old

First 50
Participants
FREE!

In Partnership with:

KIDS WORK
MSA
ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT INSTITUTE
Kameraworld
Gardenia

[illegible]

1. Fill up registration form at the CANON CAMERA SHOWROOM, 5/level, SM Megamall Bldg. B
2. Present school ID or any proof of identification showing age of participant and submit 2pcs. 1x1 ID picture.
3. Workshop is provided for free limited to fifty (50) registrants per session only.
4. Registrants in the waiting list shall be notified accordingly for any vacancy or may proceed to the venue as scheduled, However, slot/s are not guaranteed.
5. Participants are required to bring their own camera, preferably Canon.
6. Only those who complete the three session will be given a Seminar Certificate. Graduation is on May 31, 2003

For more info call PROJECTIONALS at 687-7486 / 687-7487